

The Gundaroo Gazette

Volume 198

Print circulation 570 — Readership keeps growing

May 2020

Anzac Day 2020 ... the same but different

The first wreath was laid at the Gundaroo War Memorial at 5.30am. By the Gundaroo Community Association Memorials Subcommittee.

As dawn was breaking,

families and individuals lit candles in the mist and stood at their front gates – in the village and on rural roads (*right*).

Some were also playing the private official ceremony broadcast from the Australian War Memorial.

At 6.00am, the haunting refrain of 'The Last Post' could be heard throughout the village, sounding out loud and clear from our pub. Families walking to the Memorial stopped where they were and bowed their heads for the duration before resuming their short journey.

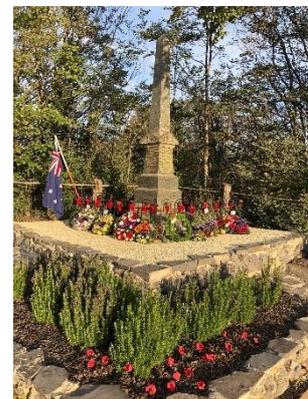
Wreaths were laid by several community organisations, and by families and individuals. Rosemary sprigs and knitted poppies (supplied by the Memorials Subcommittee) were pinned to the iron fence, and wire-stemmed poppies were planted in the surrounding garden bed.

By late morning, the Memorial displayed the evidence (*pictured*) that, despite the lack of a full commemorative service, Gundaroo's residents had still acted thoughtfully and reverently to mark Anzac Day in their own personal and reflective way.

Many other rural and urban communities around the country had done the same – some with more fanfare, but all with the same spirit of remembrance.

Anzac Day 2020 – different, but the same.

(Photos by Sue Kominek, Bronwyn Blake, Jed Johnson, Alan Cummine, Dallas Leach)



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More tributes were paid at the Memorial – everyone not in a family diligently observing the social distancing rules we have learnt to follow.

Over the next few hours, more people came by and paid their respects.

Quotes for the month

"The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt."

Bertrand Russell (1872–1970)

British philosopher, mathematician, historian, writer, essayist, social critic, political activist, Nobel Laureate

"People of privilege will always risk their complete destruction rather than surrender any material part of their advantage."

John Kenneth Galbraith (1908–2006)

Canadian–American economist, public official, diplomat, author, essayist. (Ironically derided by evidence-free discredited neoclassical free-market 'economists' for not basing his work on empirical evidence !)

The Gundaroo Gazette

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LOCAL NEWS

New Gundaroo website is now live

The new 'all-encompassing' Gundaroo website for community organisations and local businesses is now live in beta mode.

Readers are invited to go to www.gundaroo.org to see how the site is developing, keeping in mind that it is still a work-in-progress.



It had been intended to launch the site in full operation later in the year. But the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions led to a decision to launch early and then refine and add to the site over time.

The idea is to provide more exposure now for Gundaroo's local businesses and community groups that are making special efforts to keep life in the village safe and liveable.

www.gundaroo.org came about from a bequest by the late Graeme Challinor's family of his genealogy site *Gundaroo.info*.

Recent editions of *The Gundaroo Gazette* have described the genesis and progression of the project and the main personnel involved. In brief, a Gundaroo Community Association working group was formed by a meeting of community groups last year to develop the site to cover more than the history of the village.

The plan has always been that local businesses would pay a fee to utilise the website. But the working group decided that there should be no fee for the first six months of operation.

More details can be found on www.gundaroo.org.

Gazette will also be online

The Gundaroo Gazette will be a core part of the online resources offered by the new website.

Future editions of the Gazette will be posted on a dedicated page of www.gundaroo.org, as well as produced in print. Print copies will

continue to be delivered to village and rural mailboxes and to selected village 'gathering venues'.

However, the intention is that the current ever-expanding email list to which a PDF copy is attached will be used primarily to alert recipients each month that the Gazette has been published, and will link to the [gundaroo.org](http://www.gundaroo.org) website, where a PDF copy can be read on-screen or downloaded.

The Gundaroo Community Connect FB page contains editions from July 2018. Over time, the [gundaroo.org](http://www.gundaroo.org) website will build an archive of past editions going back much further than that, as a more useful online historical record.

2020 Gundaroo Music Festival cancelled in its current format

The list of cancelled or postponed events, meetings and gatherings described in the April Gazette and on Facebook pages has just grown by one ... a big one.

Organisers of the 2020 Gundaroo Music Festival have made the painful decision that the Festival can't proceed as planned in October at Gundaroo Park.

Although October is five months away, many advance decisions and financial commitments must be made – too many or too significant to delay any longer.

In Community Noticeboard (page 4), Event Director Scott Harding explains in detail the rationale for the decision to cancel, and describes some emerging plans to hold a scaled-down music event for the village, and to run the Gundaroo Emerging Musos (GEM) Battle through an online platform.

Scott also alerts us to the financial plight of MND NSW, for which the Gundaroo Music Festival is an important fundraiser.

Keeping Gundaroo 'alive and well'

The first dramatic weeks of 'the lockdown' saw a sense of urgency, even panic, about preparing for an extended isolation.

This was accompanied by countless heartwarming and reassuring displays of thoughtfulness, generosity, humour, adaptation, innovation, and generally bright ideas.

The mood seems to have calmed since then, as we appear to have adapted to a life, temporary or not, that is less frenetic and more self-sufficient – at least with respect to 'entertainment' and to food supply and preparation, to which the empty plant nurseries and

hardware shelves can bear witness. So, some of the original bright ideas have faded quietly away.

Gundaroo is fortunate to not be 'home' to the 'homeless', as cities and towns are. But plenty of our neighbours still need our support and 'to be connected' – as reported by some of our more prominent 'good Samaritans' – Mandy, Maribeth, Jess, Connie and Darren, Choppy, Bella, Cassie, to (very riskily) name a few. We all know many more.

We in turn can help those good folk, and our local tradies, by using their services, and patronising their food counters and shelves – especially Connies' premium quality fruit and vegetables (from Wiffens), and the bakery counter (now including bread from The Baker at Sutton.)

We must do all we can do and can afford, to ensure our local businesses survive this crazy difficult time.

Progress with planned Park and Hall improvements

The social distancing rules haven't prevented progress towards implementing the planned works to improve the amenity of Gundaroo Park and the Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

Park Manager Ron Miller reports that rejuvenation of the oval has been progressing well and that quotes are being received to erect shading for the children's playground.

Work on the new bore is currently expected to commence in May, and on the new amenities block in July.

A better playing surface on the oval will enable Gundaroo Bullocks to host home games again, once the social gathering rules are relaxed.

At the Hall, a contract has been signed to fit five wall-mounted fans, and replace the old hanging lights with modern LED lighting strips. Hall committee chairman Wayne Kotzur says that the new lights will be much more energy-efficient, and will enable colour choices and other 'party tricks' for hire and for functions.

Grading of Back Creek and Yass River roads completed

Loud and sustained criticism of Yass Valley Council from regular users of Back Creek Road and Yass River Road should at least die down now that the grading of both roads has been completed.

Yass River Road residents will be pleased that the contractors collecting rubbish and delivering mail will be able once again to use the road without risking vehicle damage, as had been the case before grading.

The Gundaroo Gazette has heard favourable comment about some of the timely interventions by Deputy Mayor Nathan Furry.

Council engineering staff have subsequently been seen inspecting and assessing the table drains and soft patches for follow-up maintenance work.

Funding for Shingle Hill Way realignment

Yass Valley Council has accepted a grant of \$3.6 million to realign and replace the low level crossing on Shingle Hill Way. This upgrade will enable Council to remove the current 10-tonne load limit on this significant east-west link across the region.

Council will contribute \$400,000 from the Development Contributions Reserve, and will include the project in the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan.

[For details of consultation on the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan, see 'Community Noticeboard', page 5.]

EFTPOS and easier cardboard recycling at tip

After initially replacing cash with a cumbersome recording and invoicing system at the Gundaroo Transfer Station some weeks ago, Council has now introduced EFTPOS, a welcome and much more streamlined arrangement for users and the tip manager.

Another welcome and long-sought convenience is the everyday access to paper and cardboard recycling, previously available only when the tip was open on weekends.



The new 'window' in the external fence (pictured) allows access to two large skips at any time – and tip users are taking good advantage of it outside tip opening hours.

Gundaroo streetscape improvements

Plans are being formulated to remove and replace some street trees and to improve pedestrian pathways in well-trafficked areas of the village.

A small team from Council's infrastructure and assets division recently spent a few hours in Gundaroo estimating the work to remove and replace the white-ant-infested and deformed trees (outside the Hall and the Post Office), to replace other planted street trees that have not survived the long drought, and to improve safety and surfacing of some well-used sections of the decomposed granite pedestrian pathways.

The Gundaroo Gazette has been told that the proposed works will be subject to available funding.

No official comments about the promised Bungendore High School

The Gundaroo Gazette has confirmed that nothing has been heard from the NSW Government since the Government's call for possible high school sites in Bungendore late in 2019.

This is perhaps excusable, given the significance of the other matters consuming the attention of relevant NSW authorities during this past summer and the current period COVID-19 lockdown.

Nonetheless, it is important to watch this space closely, and especially to maintain and, as appropriate, ramp up the level of attention and purpose the Government and all political parties were committing to this project before the last election and late in 2019.

Gundaroo families who have shown interest in this project appreciate that accessibility of a high school in Bungendore would be comparable to Queanbeyan, Kaleen, and Campbell – although a bit further than Gungahlin.

Having more choice of high school is reported to be a motivating factor.

Springdale Solar Farm

The Gundaroo Gazette reported in April that a UK-based international renewable energy company, RES, now owns the project to build a 190ha solar farm on Tallagandra Lane.

This ownership includes responsibility for the 'response to submissions' made during the 2018 public consultation. Sutton Solar Action Group (SSAG) has received an assurance that RES intends to meet the new official deadline for this response of the end of May 2020. (<http://suttonsolaractiongroup.com/>.)

The Gazette will keep watching this, to report to the many Gundaroo residents who made submissions.

News from our State MP

NSW Member for Goulburn, Wendy Tuckerman, has made several announcements of potential interest and relevance to Gundaroo.

Interested readers can access all of Ms Tuckerman's statements by phoning or emailing her media officer, Paige Penning, on 4822 6444 or paige.penning@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Here are three of special note.

2020 Community Building Partnerships Program – \$300,000 per electorate

Applications close 5pm Friday 12 June.

Local not-for-profit groups can apply for funds for infrastructure, equipment or refurbishment, on projects with social, environmental and recreational outcomes. Guidelines: www.nsw.gov.au/cbp.

New fee-free TAFE short courses online

13 new short courses open for online study. (21 short courses already oversubscribed.) For a list of courses, eligibility criteria, and enrolment procedures, go to: <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses>.

Extended testing for COVID-19

Testing for presence of COVID-19 has been extended to anyone with any of these symptoms – fever, cough, sore throat, tiredness, shortness of breath – even if mild. Nearest testing facility is:

Queanbeyan Hospital

Collett Street. Enter at rear.
8.30am to 12.30pm, Mon to Sat.
Bookings essential: 1800 999 880
(including for outside those hours).

Senior management changes at Council

Two notable changes are in train in Yass Valley Council senior management ranks.

The first is the recruitment of a new **Director of Planning**, to replace Chris Berry, who moved up to become General Manager early this year. Interviews were scheduled for early in May.

The second is the interim replacement of the **Director of Infrastructure and Assets**, following the departure of Stan Robb just before Anzac Day.

An experienced local government consultant, Steven Beasley, started as a 'locum' Director on Monday 4 May for a period of three months, with an option to extend.

Chris Berry told *The Gundaroo Gazette* that Steven has served in this role at Yass Valley Council previously, and is familiar with Yass Valley issues and some Council staff and Councillors.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

FESTIVAL CORNER



2020 Gundaroo Music Festival

Saturday 24 October

(Support those living with Motor Neurone Disease)

CANCELLED in its current format

It is with much sadness that we have taken the decision to cancel the Gundaroo Music Festival in its current format at the Gundaroo Park. We've not taken this decision lightly, since we had hoped that social gathering restrictions would have been lifted to enable us to make this year's GMF the best yet.

A full year of planning goes into delivering the GMF, and committing to artists and investing our money to book staging and production must be done months in advance. Given the current climate, it has been very difficult to make these decisions.

We are also saddened to hear that MND NSW is really struggling to raise much needed funds at the moment to support those living with Motor Neurone Disease. We encourage you to make a donation if you can to MND NSW to help them do the amazing work they do.

It's also why – in the spirit of 'the show must go on', and despite our not being able to stage the full production of the 2020 GMF at Gundaroo Park – we are very hopeful of being able to bring a scaled-down music event to our village on Saturday 24 October.

This will give us an opportunity to provide some work for a couple of artists who were booked but are really struggling at this time, and also to give some direct support to those living with MND in the region.

It's also why we are really excited to be thinking outside the box in the current context, and have been busy working up a plan to 'stage' the Gundaroo Emerging Musos (GEM) Battle in an online platform. The GEM Battle heats and semi-final will be broadcast through online social media live platforms, and acknowledgement of sponsors (right) will form part of the broadcast. So stay tuned for more on that soon.

The GEM battle reminds all of us about the reason Scott Windsor (pictured) started the GMF in our village – to showcase emerging talent, and to give opportunities to young artists to perform and do what they love on stage. It has been five years this year since our mate Scott died. But his legacy lives on, and for that we will be forever grateful.

Despite not being able to proceed the way we'd hoped this year, I'm positive about our plans to stage an event you will like and support.

Meanwhile, make sure you save the date for the **2021 Gundaroo Music Festival – Saturday 23 October**, from 10am to 10pm.

We thank our sponsors and so many of you in our community for your goodwill and support as always.

Scott Harding
Event Director
0411 251 710



Scotty Windsor's legacy.

An enthralled 12-year-old Dylan learning at Scott's knee at the Harding 40th birthday party in 2010. Dylan now plays that very drum kit when accompanying local bands.

Gundaroo Film Society

2020 Program remains suspended until further notice.

Subscription refunds available on request.

Gundaroo Community Association

Annual General Meeting date to be advised.

Renew your membership for 2020 or become a new member (\$10 per year). Forms are available from the Gundaroo PO, or from

gundarooassociation@gmail.com

YOUR SUPPORT IS WELCOME

Gundaroo & District Historical Society

The exhibition planned for May will now be held in 2021. Based on a 1975 National Trust report to 'document the past and assess future development in the village', it has photos from 45 years ago that are of particular interest.

New Facebook page!

www.facebook.com/gundarooanddistricthistoricalsociety

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



2020/21 Draft Operational Plan

Do you want to know what projects are occurring in your town or village over the next 12 months? Do you want to know why one project takes priority over another, or why one road is being sealed but another is not?

It's important for residents to understand and play a part in Council's Draft Operational Plan, which includes our activities, budget, fees and charges for each financial year.

Traditionally, Council has hit the road and held a series of public meetings in each of the towns and villages in the Local Government Area (LGA) to present the proposed program and budget to the community. Things will look different this year, but we still want the community to be involved.

"Our community has been faced with significant challenges this year. It is an uncertain and unsettling time, and we have all been forced to adapt to new and innovative ways of life as we unite to get through this together," said Yass Valley Mayor, Rowena Abbey.

"Council has cancelled Community Roadshows for 2020, but we will still deliver the 2020/21 Operational Plan in an alternative online format. Your engagement, feedback and suggestions are more important than ever, as these documents are ultimately shaped by you – the community."

In lieu of Community Roadshows, Council has set up a separate and interactive website for presenting the Draft Operational Plan. Use the link below for access. (Note: on a desktop computer, use Google Chrome for best results.)

www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au/documents/Draft-Operational-Plan/index.html

Hard copies of the plan have been sent to village associations, and additional copies can be organised for safe pick up or delivery (adhering to safe distancing guidelines) by contacting Council on 6226 1477 or Council@yass.nsw.gov.au.

The community has until **5pm on Wednesday 27 May 2020** to provide their written feedback on the Draft Plan.

Draft Hardship Policy

The Draft Operational Plan contains Council's Statement of Revenue for 2020/2021. Contained within this is Council's framework for waiving, discounting, or reducing fees and charges for Council services. This relates to fees that Council charges for things like the use of Council facilities and disposing rubbish at transfer stations.

Under the Draft Hardship Policy, currently on public exhibition, people or organisations unable to meet their obligations can apply for relief. In the short-to-medium term, this may be due to unforeseen personal circumstances such as loss of employment, family breakdown, illness, death, or disruptive community events such as the Coronavirus pandemic. Council can defer rates and annual charges, such as waste levies, for the current and following year.

The community has until **5pm on Wednesday 27 May 2020** to provide written feedback on the Draft Hardship Policy, which can be found on the Council's website at: www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au/our-council/public-consultation/

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Council response

Remember: You can find regular updates on disruptions to Council services and facilities by clicking on the red banner at the top of each page of Council's website, and in the table at www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au/our-council/news/covid-19/disruption-to-council-service/.



GUNDAROO OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Before School – 7am–9am \$15 per day, \$18 Casual

After School – 3pm–6pm \$25 per day, \$28 Casual

GOSH is an Approved Service offering Child Care Subsidy to eligible families.

Children from all schools are welcome to attend.

Enquiries to

gundarogosh@gmail.com

Gundaroo Public School, Lot Street, Gundaroo

Gunning medical services – 4845 1166

Doctors and allied health services.

(Phone for bookings and more information)

Gunning Pharmacy – 4845 1339

Monday to Friday 9.00 to 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00pm to 1.00pm

NOT EVERYTHING
IS CANCELLED

sunshine is not cancelled
spring is not cancelled
love is not cancelled
relationships are not cancelled
reading is not cancelled
naps are not cancelled
devotion is not cancelled
music is not cancelled
dancing is not cancelled
imagination is not cancelled
kindness is not cancelled
conversations are not cancelled
hope is not cancelled



#keeplookingup
SimpleStencils.com

From 'The Desk'

This month's edition is 20 pages, not the usual 24. Some features I was expecting dropped out, as their authors focused on more important matters. And rightly so.

I believe you might enjoy the read, nonetheless. As well as our regular columns, (thank you!), Anzac Day gave us a timely focus, and the front page and Jed's family story (page 9) should provide a reason to reflect on our general good fortune, despite the current disruptions.

Also, it is satisfying to report some good news about Council's activities and decisions. Long may that continue.

PLEASE NOTE: Those on the ever-growing email list should **prepare for future emails without an attached PDF copy. You will find instead a link to a new website, (www.gundaroo.org)** where The Gundaroo Gazette has a dedicated portal with the latest edition – plus archived copies for the historically minded.

Stay safe...and stay connected Your Editor / Custodian



Gundaroo Rural Fire Brigade

The Bush Fire Danger Period

The official Bush Fire Danger Period (Fire Season) ended on 30 April and a Fire Permit is no longer required for fires lit in the open, e.g. for burn-offs or hazard reduction. You must still notify your adjoining neighbours and Yass Fire Control (Ph: 6226 3100 Monday to Friday during business hours) at least 24 hours before your intended burn. Please also notify Gundaroo Captain, Michael Cliff (0428 494 403). The Brigade advises all residents conducting pile or controlled burns to take care. Information is also available online at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Glorious Rain

The recent rain has been fantastic after months of dry, and the grass and weeds are going nuts! Captain Michael Cliff reminds everyone to keep your maintenance going over the next coming months. The grass growth we're experiencing will dry off later and could become a grass fire risk. Keep clipping while it's green and maintain the perimeters around your home or property.

Thank you our Roving Reporter

The Brigade Executive would like to thank *The Gundaroo Gazette* Editor/ Custodian, Alan Cummine for giving a brilliant write-up on our 2020 Annual General Meeting, held on 11 March, luckily just before the social distancing and lock-downs rules. We thank him for reflecting on our operations during the last 12 months.

Coronavirus Update

The Gundaroo Brigade is still available for callouts and emergencies and will follow the NSW Rural Fire Service Coronavirus Operational Procedures when attending incidents. The COVID-19 social distancing policy means we can't hold monthly executive meetings or training, but new Secretary, Michael Joyce, is still recording our phone/email meetings. We're looking at modifying our training to enable a Training Officer to give two members at a time training with equipment on the trucks.

Anzac Day

Captain, Michael Cliff laid a wreath on behalf of NSW RFS at the Gundaroo War Memorial on 25 April – Lest We Forget.

Slow down

The tragic deaths of four Victorian Police Officers attending to a motor vehicle incident highlights the dangers faced by our members too when on scene of motor vehicle accidents (MVA). When you see Emergency Services with red/blue lights activated, please slow down and think about the safety of everyone around. We're there to help you and we want to return home safely.

Incidents

Captain, Michael Cliff reported two incidents since the last report.

21 March – MVA, Murrumbateman Road, Gundaroo

30 March – Car fire, Hadlow Drive, Lake George (pictured)



Donations – Please note, the Brigade has new bank account numbers ... BSB: 032-746 Account No: 015969.

A donation of \$50 per family to Gundaroo Rural Fire Brigade is tax deductible in this financial year if made by 30 June. Payments can be made by cheque, cash or direct transfer. Please include your name and address for receipt. Contact Treasurer, Peter Laudenbach on 0402 725 375 or email barneysbookkeeping2@bigpond.com.au.

Deidre Robinson – Publicity Officer

NSW SES - SUTTON UNIT
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MISSION • NSW SES, SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING COMMUNITIES
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SES
NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Sutton SES services the Sutton, Gundaroo and parts of the Bywong communities.
HQ is at 19 Victoria St, Sutton.
Training is on Monday nights from 7.00pm.
New volunteers always welcome.

Help your family prepare for floods and storms

Things you can do NOW to prepare your home and family

1. Make a plan for your family that outlines what you would do in an emergency

2. Prepare an emergency kit in case you lose power or need to leave your home in a hurry

3. Secure or put away items that could blow around in strong winds

and... when a storm is coming

4. Head inside and bring pets with you

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Gundaroo School News



We find ourselves at the beginning of a new term with a very empty calendar and a lot of uncertainty about what to expect in the coming ten weeks. Nevertheless, teachers and students are a flexible bunch and have managed to twist, turn and contort themselves in all manner of ways to adapt to this new way of teaching and learning!

I continue to be amazed at the innovation of the staff and students, and every now and then catch myself thinking about how much has changed from when I began my teaching career just fifteen years ago (can I still say 'just'?) with blackboards in every classroom.

This term saw us begin the first two weeks with the majority of students learning from home; utilising Seesaw, Zoom and GSuite to connect with their peers and teacher. From week 3, we are excited to be able to welcome students back to school for one day per week as part of a phased return to school. How long this lasts is anyone's guess, but it is exciting to see some light at the end of the tunnel, and I will keep my fingers crossed that the Department's plan is a success.

While students were on their Easter break, the teachers spent the time organising a whole term of learning into a pack for students to collect before the term begins.

We've also had our poor old weathershed finally replaced. I have no idea how old it was, but I'm certain that with each passing year it leaned over a few centimetres more. While it is sad to lose a small part of the school's history, it really was time. And for those in the know, the possum vacated a while ago, so no need to worry!

Despite the much smaller ANZAC Day Service this year, it was nice to be able to offer our School Captains the opportunity to pay their respects and lay the wreath on behalf of the school (*pictured*). Thank you to the Gundaroo Community Association and Memorial Sub-committee for your organisation of this very important occasion.

I look forward to sharing more news in the next Gazette – with students back at school!

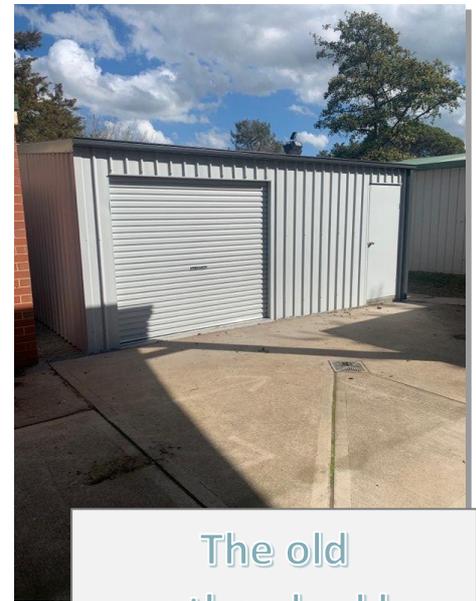
Nigel Trethowan
Principal



A much smaller ANZAC Day service



Work packs ready to go for Term 2



The old weathershed has been replaced!

Teacher: *Charlie, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?*
Charlie: *No, Sir. It's the same dog.*



GUNDOG ESTATE
CORK ST. CELLAR DOOR

We have staff here on Sat and Sun only, 11am to 4pm

Currently Cork Street Cellar Door is CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

We are doing front-door delivery within the village of our cheese/charcuterie and wines. Sat and Sun after 4pm. Call the cellar door on **02 6236 8276**, or email to order.

An order form is on Gundaroo Community Connect FB page.

Cellar Door Product Focus

Gourmet Pantry – We support many local producers and products, so hold a Zoom catch-up with friends and family, and in style, with some delicious gourmet cheese and charcuterie alongside our matching wines!

Gundog Estate The Pointers Coffee Bean Blend – A new release roasted in the Hunter Valley! A fine mix of Mexican & Brazilian Arabica with a hint of Indian Robusta. A dark roast, bursting with cherry, fruit, toffee & dark chocolate overtones. Perfect for the discerning Espresso coffee connoisseur. 250gm, 500gm and 1kg.

2018 Estate Shiraz – High quality fruit from two local vineyards, this wine illustrates great regional style, being vibrant, intensely aromatic, and medium bodied. A combo of white pepper, dark fruit, spice and velvety tannins. Perfect for those cooler nights in.

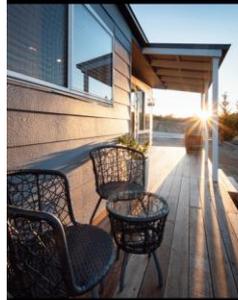
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www.gundogestate.com.au

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Inquiries to wine@tallagandrahill.com.au

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... thanks to YOU!**

* * * * *



TAKEAWAY BAR SALES
(like a bottle shop)

Wed, Thurs, Sun 4pm to 7pm*
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Tin bum*, dodging bullets, and forgiveness – a family Anzac story

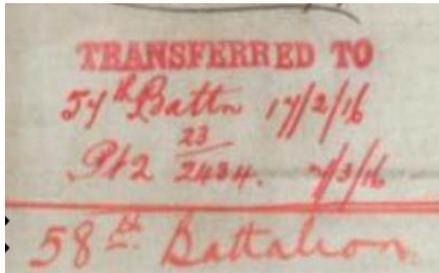
By Jed Johnson

In 1839, my great, great grandfather, whom I know only on paper as Andrew Johnson, and his partner Maria Peel, gave birth to a boy in Gothenburg, Sweden. Peel is a Dutch name, and it's possible that Andrew was not the father's name at all, and that 'Johnson' was more likely to be Johanssen. That would explain some blond hair in the family!

Twenty years later, that son jumped on a boat that sailed to Tasmania, where he anglicised his name to James Alfred Johnson. He ended up marrying a Melbourne girl and they had six children, the third being my great grandfather, Charles, born in 1869. In 1889 Charlie married a Chinese lady from the Ballarat goldfields, Alice Eelen Tong, and they in turn had nine kids, the fourth being Herbert in 1896, and then John Andrew in 1897. That explains some strong straight black hair in the family!

John Andrew, or Jack, is my grandfather. Jack was born with one thing that would make him a lifelong fighter, a harelip. Despised and ridiculed for his hideous appearance, he was in trouble from an early age. By the time Jack was a teenager, his parents decided to put his energies into the Army. When World War I broke out in 1914, Jack had started a butcher apprenticeship and had already served four years as a senior cadet with the 61st Battalion reservists. He was ready and eager to go.

At 18, he enlisted in the 10th reinforcement platoon 8th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces and was transferred to the 57th Battalion. It was likely he got into another fight or was injured, but he was then transferred again in March to the 58th Battalion where he ended up in hospital.



My brother-in-law, a war historian, says that this transfer saved Jack's life, because the 57th Battalion was virtually wiped out in May 2016, whereas in June that year, Jack was resting on a ship heading back to Australia.

While Jack was in hospital, the Army also fixed his harelip, and this small act changed his life.



Jack went back to the butcher shop in Melbourne in 1916. He farewelled his brother Bert (*seated*), who enlisted also. This is the last time they saw each other. Bert was blown up as a gunner in 1917, and is buried at Villers-Bretonneux in France.

Bert's death profoundly affected Jack, who decided to re-enlist. But before he headed off, he had one last 'fling' on the town with a beautiful girl from Collingwood, Malvina (Vina). He set sail via New York in 1918, but

found out via telegram at sea that Vina was pregnant. He was so upset that he jumped ship and went AWOL, copping a fine. The baby boy was born on Christmas Day 1918 – my Uncle Jack ('Jack junior').

After his son was born, Jack senior joined the UK reinforcement troops in France and saw out the war. But while helping in the Army postal corps before returning home, he caught the Spanish flu. Millions died. He was hospitalised

again, and returned to Melbourne, taking two years to recover fully. But he had survived another brush with death.

He married Malvina. Their son, Jack junior, now three years old, was later joined by two more children, the youngest of which was my father, Walter James (Wally).

Jack senior didn't cope with civilian life, and hit the bottle. Often drunk and affected by PTSD, he was a mess. My father Wally grew up seeing Jack frequently fighting with his mother Vina. Wally learned to fight as well, and by the time he was 14, he was a capable boxer. That came in handy when one night, this youth knocked his father out for attacking his mother, and kicked Jack senior out of the home.

Life was not easy, and the 1930s depression made things worse. When WWII broke out, Jack junior, my uncle (*standing*), enlisted. Jack senior (*seated*), still estranged from his family, lied about his age and went back to war at 42. Jack junior was captured and spent five years in a Japanese prison. Jack senior managed to make it through ... yet again. (*A 'tin bum' – i.e. very lucky, and impervious to kicks in the bum.)



My father, Wally, neither spoke to nor saw his dad, Jack senior, until Wally's older brother, Jack junior, called him to a hospital in 1974. After a brief forgiveness, Jack senior asked to see his grandchildren (me and my siblings) for the first time. Wally returned to pick us up, but before we all got to the hospital, Jack had died. So I never got to meet my grandfather.

In 2015, my sister found that Jack senior had not collected his war medals. So we decided to do that and to research his war records. When Wally was 87, he visited me and Liz in Gundaroo. I told him this story, including the fact that his own brother Jack was three years older than he thought! Wally was truly impacted by the full picture, and he finally understood how a boy who had fought all his life would find it hard to cope with 'normal' life.



Next day was Anzac Day 2016, and I suggested Wally might like to wear his dad's medals. He went to bed saying no, but overnight he rethought it, and at the early Anzac service he wore them proudly. This was a truly a remarkable act of forgiveness, and a lesson he passed on

to all his offspring: that is, **you're never too old to change your mind or to say you're sorry.**

Wally died in December 2018. This year the Anzac tradition had a different feel of course, but I can't help thinking of the connections between the Spanish Flu and Coronavirus, escaping death, managing in hard times, and forgiveness.

Lest we forget.

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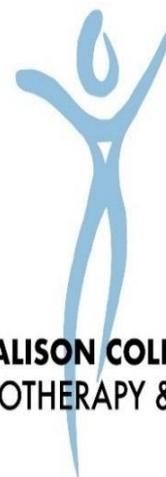
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Fire season

As far as it might be from your mind, autumn–winter is a time when you can be in charge of fire, rather than have fire terrorize you. And I am not just talking about the wood heater.

There is much made of the difference between 'hazard reduction' burning and 'ecological' burning. The subtext of the debate is that they are activities that are in opposition, but to my mind there is not all that much difference. They both reduce biomass. With hazard reduction, the purpose is to mitigate risk of danger to humans later in the season. With ecological burning, you are reducing biomass to help species which would not thrive otherwise. In the image below, the competitive grass was burnt to promote wildflowers, which it has done. But the fire hazard has also been lessened.



Early Nancies have flowered well in response to a burn 17 months earlier. The dead top hamper of the unburnt grass is behind.

Where conflict between these two uses of fire might arise

is when dense shrubs and thick litter are required habitat for particular animals. In a well-managed landscape, a mosaic of recently-burnt and long-unburnt vegetation would enable all vegetation states to be present, without creating too much hazard. Unfortunately, this mosaic is hard to create. There are complications of changing weather patterns, many different land uses, and inhabitants with varying attitudes towards the use of fire. In pre-European times, fire was the primary management tool, and the objectives of food production and physical access were shared by all Aboriginal people.

We have experimented with cool season grassland burning for 15 years, and so far I have concluded:

- 1) After a century of no systematic burning, there seem to be no fire-dependent species left in our landscape, and a fire will not magically produce them from the seed bank.
- 2) Burning thick perennial grass will open the matrix and enable many other species to regenerate. But exotic species are just as encouraged as natives, and herbivores will swarm over the burnt patches and eat any potential wildflower displays. They are after the fresh green pick.
- 3) You never know what the future season will bring after the fire – the regrowth may bring you back to where you were very quickly, leaving you with the same summer hazard as before the fire. Conversely, a following dry spell may leave the ground scorched, arid, and prone to erosion.
- 4) Burning on a still winter afternoon is a pleasant task. (See picture above right.)

2012 – a year when there was grass to burn. After the terrible dry of 2019 and the intense kangaroo grazing pressure, there is no call for extensive burning of the short swards we have in 2020.



Despite all the heated comments about the fuel reduction we should have done, there has been little to burn in our landscape over 2017–19. Last summer was scary, but not because the place was thick with grass and shrubs.

Now it is time to burn, but there still is not much biomass around. This is the tricky aspect of it all. The timing of growth does not always fit with the opportunity to burn.



Our first fire in 2009 was to clear litter and tangled growth beneath a large tree within the fire protection zone. It is one of the few areas we plan to burn again this year.

However, even in droughts, eucalypts continuously drop bark and leaves, which can accumulate quickly. Burning under them when required means that it can be safe to have large trees in the house environs. Make sure that the top of the litter is dry, raked back from the trunk's base, and the fine litter is damp, to prevent scorching of the soil and damage to the surface roots of the trees.

It is also a time to burn those previously discussed unpalatable grasses such as Wire Grass (*Aristida ramosa*). The young Wire Grass shoots are palatable and plants can be held back for a period of time. Personally, I am in two minds about doing this. We've so many orchids sheltering from herbivores in our ungrazed Wire Grass patches that we've decided to give the grass a reprieve for now.

Sue McIntyre
May 2020

<http://www.gang-gang-gundaroo.com>

Teacher: Bridget, how do you spell crocodile?

Bridget: K-R-O-D-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's wrong.

Bridget: Well it may be wrong. But you asked me how I spell it.



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Bay Leaf trees

As we watch our trees defoliating rapidly, early this year, I thought it would be a great time to have a look at one of my favourite evergreen trees.

Bay Leaf Tree (*Laurus nobilis*) has been used in our cooking for centuries, and is a holy tree for the Greeks and Romans. When you look up the description of this plant, it says it is a small tree. But considering it is a herb, it grows to 10 metres (plus – in the perfect conditions that exist here) and can be as wide as six metres. This is not a small tree, unless of course you buy it as a 'standard' – this is grafted at the top of the trunk at around 1.8 metres high (this can vary from 1 to 2 metres), and looks like a lollypop – shaped like a topiary (pictured right).

They are traditionally shaped like a topiary – pyramids, ball and standards are usual shapes – and they are really happy in a pot.

Bay trees produce an insignificant creamy white scented flowers in the spring, followed by a green berry that then becomes a fragrant black berry. These are not used in cooking, although they are given by alternative folk to relieve flatulence.

This year, birds have gone crazy nibbling the berries on my bay trees, to a point of fighting over them.

However, the aromatic flavour of bay leaves is used to enhance soups, gravies, fish and meat dishes and to marinate anything with protein. It is also a wonderful ingredient to add with pickling cucumbers and onions.

Add the whole leaf while cooking and remove it before serving. You can use the leaf fresh or dried.

You can harvest the leaves any time you need them and they don't need to be dried, although some folk think the flavour is better.

To dry the leaves, place them individually on a tray in a warm spot and, when dry, store them in an airtight container. Small branches can also be tied together and hung in a dry spot.

The Bay Tree is of Mediterranean origin and likes well drained soil. Although very adaptable to most situations, it does better if out of exposed cold and drying winds.

Bay trees are hardy down to -10 degrees for short periods of time – so they are mostly fine in our climate. They don't mind full sun or part shade.

They grow happily in a pot, for years and years, although you should never let your plant get too dry for a prolonged time. Watering twice a week is ideal, perhaps more when very dry and hot.

As mentioned above, Bay trees can be shaped easily. Late summer pruning is optimum, but really they can be pruned at any time and you have the added bonus of storing the clippings for cooking later.



'Lollypop' Bay tree (right) growing conveniently near our front door.

When Bays are young, you should leave them alone to get established before trimming or using leaves, as disturbing the plant too early can stunt and retard growth.

Scale insects and white fly can both be pests on Bay trees. I don't like to use pesticides on my production plants, but in order for them to be at their maximum health and if you have tried to hand pick, sometimes it's essential to treat with a pesticide. White oil can be effective, but you must connect the spray with the pest to be successful, and the pests are clever at hiding. I have had success with 'Initiator', a pesticide that comes in a tablet form that you push into the soil in the root zone of the plant.

The Bay tree is mostly low maintenance, drought hardy and evergreen, and is absolutely on my favourite tree list.

Lisa Walmsley
April 2020



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HayDrop South: Wildcare's response to the bushfires

Many local property owners and wildlife volunteers across Australia have been providing ongoing support for surviving animals that lost their habitat to fire last summer. In our own backyard, many people have focused efforts to provide food, water and in some cases shelter for many animals requiring supplementation to adequately survive. Wildcare volunteers, with the help of many others in the community, have been busily delivering essential food – grass, hay, pellets, bird seed, fruit/vegetables and 'browse' (native tree and shrub cuttings). Following is an account by one Wildcare volunteer involved in driving this support, Mike Wilkins, on how wildlife has been helped at firegrounds around the small township of Michelago.

The Calabash and Clear Range fires near Michelago flared up in late January and destroyed an area of around 17,000 hectares of bush and farmland. Drawing on its experience responding to the much larger (37,000 hectare) North Black Range (Tallaganda Forest) fires, which burned from November to January, Wildcare quickly put together a plan to provide essential feed to wildlife affected by these latest fires. In contrast to the 'Tallaganda model', of using a large number of volunteers to deliver feed to fire-affected properties, the Michelago model was to invite the owners of fire-affected properties to collect wildlife feed from a depot in Michelago village. This new approach was chosen mainly because the distance from Queanbeyan and Canberra would make it much harder to sustain a labour-intensive model of delivering feed.

It was crucial that the owners of properties affected by the Calabash and Clear Range fires be contacted as quickly as possible, but this was a challenging job given the damage to access tracks and phone lines/towers. A few 'expeditions' provided an initial list of property owners, soon added to by word of mouth. Local Facebook groups were also very useful for quickly spreading the message to property owners interested in supporting native wildlife.

On 14 February, two shipping containers were delivered to Michelago and stocked with hay, pellets, birdseed and fruit and veg (sweet potatoes, apples and carrots). There was also a stock of PVC water stations, nestboxes (rosellas and possums) and hanging bird/possum feeders.

Meanwhile, as soon as it was safe to do so, Wildcare carried out a series of 'Black Walks' on fire-affected properties. As well as delivering feed, these teams were able to rescue a number of injured/orphaned animals (roos, wallaroos, wombats) and log others that needed monitoring.

We also organised a feed delivery to a few properties in the Bumbalong Valley that had been totally destroyed and whose owners were flat out getting their lives running again. 'Thank you' to the Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club (*pictured above right*) for turning out to ensure we could negotiate dirt roads and cross the Murrumbidgee after recent heavy rain.

The Michelago feed depot continues to receive weekly top-ups of fruit and veg (purchased at 'mates rates' from Ziggy's at Belconnen and Fyshwick Markets) and fresh 'browse' delivered by enthusiastic volunteers from Queanbeyan or Canberra. The hay, pellets and birdseed



are restocked as necessary. These HayDrop South volunteers ('Thank you', All!) are coordinated through a Facebook group of the same name. Facebook can definitely minimise the effort of communicating with large numbers of busy individuals!

The Michelago depot will be kept open until the local bush has regenerated and there is no longer a need for supplementary wildlife feed. Because only one volunteer at a time is needed for the restocking tasks (helped by a family member if needed), we can comply with the COVID-19 social distancing requirements, and the travel restrictions allow essential volunteer activity like this to continue. Thanks to all who have contributed to these efforts. While you are too many to name here, you should feel proud to have helped the wildlife when most needed.

To donate, visit wildcare.com.au and find out how this can be done. Call Wildcare on 6299 1966 for further advice on wildlife matters (put it in your mobile).

**Mike Wilkins & Merran Laver
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Gundaroo Goats – Top Five Performances of the Decade

With no actual sport on offer for the foreseeable future, this month we chose to do what every other sports talk show is doing and reminisce about the past. We present here the top five individual performances this decade for Gundaroo Cricket Club.

5th – Anthony Mortimer. Took 5 for 17 in 5 overs vs Murrumbateman – Semi Final 2015-16

One of the most unfit blokes under 30 ever to play for the club, and a particularly rare unit off-field. Yabba terrified Murrumbateman on this day, coming on as a 5th-change bowler and unleashing one of the fastest spells of bowling seen in the comp. At the end, blokes were stepping on their stumps to get out of the way.

4th – Scott Harding. Took 5 for 4 in 3 overs vs Murrumbateman – 2014-15

For all he did off the field for the club, we'd not seen the best of Bear on field until one magical day. The stars aligned, his left arm 'spinners' completely flummoxed the Murrumbateman tail and they lost their final five wickets for three runs. That spell won us the game (we were defending 80). Only stayed for two beers at the pub that night but.

3rd – Jez Clarke. 118* vs Murrumbateman – 2014-15

An amazing innings, coming in at first drop very early on and steering the team to victory against the traditional rivals. It was a very hot day, and as people around him fell, Jez played the hits, stroking drive after drive to the fence and pushing us on to victory. Definitely looked like a beetroot when the game was done.

2nd – Sam Hehir. The last three games of 2012-13

Bit of a cheat here. But the performance of Sam Hehir across the finals of 2012-13 was one for the ages. He scored 208 runs across three innings and not dismissed once, crowned with a glorious 135-not-out in the Grand



Final victory. We had him with us for only one year before he went back to South Australia, but truly one of the best players the Goats have had.

1st – Mitch Callagher. Took 6 for 19 in 6 overs vs Boroowa – Grand Final 2018-19

Although he's had better individual performances (this was mostly pies and half-trackers that Boroowa were too junk to hit), the context of this little spell makes it the standout performance of the decade. Coming into drinks, Boroowa were cruising at 3 for 98 chasing 155. Enter Mitch. Six overs later, the Crocs were dismissed for 113, and the Goats had won another premiership. It has been six weeks since Mitch has spoken about this performance down at the pub. Mainly because it's shut.

Sean Egan
President
Gundaroo Goats CC

Gundaroo Bullocks ... on hold

The 2019 season for the Gundaroo Bullocks has been a non-event, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This unprecedented situation has resulted in FFA (Football Federation Australia) issuing a temporary suspension to all football activities – at this stage until 31 May 2020.

The club committee agreed to withdraw our registration to play this season, as the financial cost to our small club would not be viable. Even if a shorter season was to go ahead, full fees for the season are not an option. Capital Football kindly acknowledged this and suspended our registrations.

The club is having regular meetings with Capital Football with regard to a possible shortened season. A meeting has been scheduled for 11 May to inform us what this model may look like, so stay tuned!

On a positive note, however, Shane Dawson, our club President, has been busy rejuvenating the oval, which is looking fantastic after the recent rains. He has spent many hours spraying and seeding and repairing irrigation, ensuring the club will be able to have home games again when the bans are lifted.

Shane's work not only benefits the Gundaroo Bullocks, but the community as a whole, as it is now a welcoming venue to attend, and will only get better as the new grass takes hold. So a huge thank you on behalf of the club and I am sure the Gundaroo Community.

Stay safe and healthy, everyone.

Greg Garrett
Gundaroo Bullocks Treasurer
E: gundaroobullocks@bigpond.com



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IMPORTANT NOTE — The information on this page has been temporarily amended to comply with governmental decrees with respect to containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The contact details remain as listed – for Eateries and for Churches.

Eateries in Gundaroo

Grazing (The Royal Hotel)

Cnr Cork and Harp Streets

6236 8777 www.grazing.com.au

Award-winning restaurant in a 19th-century pub steeped in history. Sophisticated fine country dining.

Closed until further notice.

Cork Street Gallery Café

24 Cork Street

6236 8217

(Walk down the driveway to the stables behind the Old Police Station, now a private residence.)

[Innovative gourmet pizzas, with salads and home-made cakes, served in the stables or the paved garden. BYO. Casual and popular. Phone orders welcome. Takeaway available.]

Takeaway only.

Wednesday to Sunday, 5.00–8.00pm

Gundaroo Colonial Inn and Rolling Hills Kitchen

23 Cork Street

6236 8155

www.gundaroocolonialinn.com.au

[The 'village pub'. Great atmosphere. Very popular family restaurant, with indoor and outdoor dining. Live music often. Takeaway available.]

Takeaway only. Days and hours subject to change.

Bar: Over the bar sales, includes local wines
Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday, 4.00pm–7.00pm
Friday, Saturday, 4.00pm–8.00pm

Restaurant: No-contact pick-up only
Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday, 6.00–7.00pm
Friday–Saturday, 6.00–8.00pm

Takeaway menu / Family Meal Kits / Gourmet Groceries

Online bookings preferred, via www.bellasfeast.com.au
Phone bookings via 0401 579 650 or 6236 8060

Gundaroo Grocer, Cork St Cellars & Takeaway

54 Cork Street

6236 8141 gundaroogrocer@bigpond.com

[Quality meals. Wide menu. Eat-in or takeaway.]

Takeaway only: Refer to advertisement on page 10.

Gundog Estate Cork Street Cellar Door

Cnr Cork and Harp Streets (enter from Harp Street)

6236 8276

www.gundogestate.com.au
corkstreet@gundogestate.com.au

[Gourmet meat and cheese platters. Tea and coffee. Wine by the bottle or glass, served only with food. Wine tastings. Extensive range.]

Temporarily closed. Home deliveries within the village.
Wines and Gourmet Pantry goodies.

Tallagandra Hill Winery — Wine Bar

1692 Murrumbateman Road

0434 041 915

[Specially curated cheese and charcuterie platters matched to our single vineyard premium wines.

The menu offers a unique matched food-and-wine experience for our visitors to enjoy either for a hearty lunch or just for 'grazing'.]

Temporarily closed as a venue. No tastings.
Counter wine sales by appointment or online.

Church worship in Gundaroo

All in-person church services and activities have been suspended until further notice. But check with the relevant contact person about online services.

Catholic

St Joseph's Church

(Cnr Harp and Morning Streets)

Mass: 9.00am every third Sunday

Communion Services: 9.00am every other Sunday

Contact: Narelle Buckley – 0422 808 964

Anglican

St Marks Church

(Cork Street)

All services start at 4.00pm

Communion Service (first Sunday)

Family Service (third Sunday)

Contact: Royce Thompson — 0416 265 600

Uniting

Gundaroo Community Church

(Cnr Lot and Cork Streets)

Services on the first three Sundays of the month, starting at 9.00am and finishing with morning tea.

Gundaroo Community Church (first Sunday)

Family service, led by local families.

All ages worship, with activities for kids.

Open Service (second Sunday)

Shared worship with Canberra district home churches, with activities for kids and youth.

Uniting Church Service (third Sunday)

Led by Gunning Uniting Church worship team, with activities for kids.

Contact: Marion Meischke — 6236 8192

Ecumenical Services

The three churches arrange an ecumenical service in each month with a fifth Sunday, rotating the venue.

Facebook pages (Local groups)

Gundaroo Community Connect
Gundaroo Buy, Swap and Sell

