

The Gundaroo Gazette

Community | Cohesion | Harmony

PUBLISHED ON NGUNNAWAL COUNTRY

Volume 263.3

www.gundaroo.org

April 2026

Springdale Solar Farm Not Proceeding

It appears the Springdale Solar Farm on Tallagandra Lane will not proceed.

According to a letter emailed to the Sutton community on 17 March 2026 by Flow Power, the company that was to construct the Solar Farm have now decided to not go ahead. The Gazette initially confirmed with the company the letter was genuine.

Further investigation by the Sutton and District Community Association, which has taken a major role in the past seven or eight years protesting against the 350ha Solar Farm between Tallagandra Lane and Tintinhull Road, also produced verbal confirmation from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure that the project was unlikely to proceed.

Mark Burgess from the Association said it had sought clarification from both Flow Power and the Department as to what the information meant.

“Both Flow Power and the Department have verbally confirmed the following:

- The Government approval for SSD 8703 Springdale Solar lapsed on 19 February 2026.
- The Project will not proceed, and has not been on-sold.
- A new Development Application will be required for any type of development again in this location.

“We did agree however with the Department official, that we would wait for formal notification from the Government, before we popped the champagne corks,” Mr Burgess said.

“We accept that renewables will be part of our energy mix into the future, but surely the Government should hold developers to account for their actions, including their in-actions.

“It was an ill-conceived project, and the actions of the first two developers, as well as the Department, not to mention the Independent Planning Commission, demonstrated to us why there is so much opposition to such developments.”

Mr Burgess congratulated “community members who banded together under the umbrella of the Sutton Solar Action Group (SSAG) in leading the fight on behalf of the community.”

“Flow Power were the third company to attempt the project and we were concerned this might mean that a fourth company would be taking over but this now seems unlikely,” Mr Burgess said.

Questions asked on new speed limits

Yass Valley Councillor Al Charry has submitted a series of Questions with Notice for the April Council Meeting about the speed limit changes between Sutton and Gundaroo.

The responses will be published before the next meeting as part of new Code of Meeting Practice now in force and the end of pre-meeting briefings.

Cr Charry said this way the information will be visible and accessible to all Sutton and Gundaroo residents.

The questions sent to the Director of Infrastructure were:

1. 2025 Council communications state that Transport for NSW undertook a speed zone review in response to concerns raised by both the community and Yass Valley Council. Can the specific (Cont. p2)

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(From p1) nature of Council's input or recommendation be outlined, including which roads were included in this review?

2. What detailed data and analysis underpinned the review, particularly in relation to crash history, speed environment and compliance with NSW speed zoning standards?
3. Was this matter considered by the Local Transport Forum, and what positions were taken by Yass Valley Council, NSW Police and Transport for NSW representatives?
4. What consultation was subsequently undertaken with affected residents prior to Yass Valley Council raising concerns or supporting the review, and if none occurred, why was this considered appropriate?
5. Given the level of community concern now being expressed, what mechanisms are available for Yass Valley Council to seek a formal review of the current speed limit on Sutton Road/ Gundaroo Road and Back Creek Road, and under what circumstances could such a review be initiated?

Cr Charry said he'd also reached out to Wendy Tuckerman's office as she'd also publicly expressed concern about this issue.

Gundaroo Park needs new Board members

The Gundaroo Park Land Manager is looking for two new Board members, with appointments starting after April 2026.

The Park is managed by a voluntary board of up to seven local villagers appointed for a five-year term by NSW Crown Lands, the "owner" of the Park, which operates as a Crown Reserve. A new Board period starts on 3 April 2026 with the reappointment of current members: Barney Dalgarno (Chair), Sean Egan (Secretary), Cam Neill (Treasurer), Kevin Green (Grounds and Safety) and Tony Ward (Communications and Information).

Leaving the Board are Alex Geniola and Ron Miller. Alex has been a valued member for the past three years, and we express our sincere appreciation for her contributions over that time. Ron has been a Board member and leader for long periods going back to the 1980s. The Board and park users are deeply indebted to Ron for his marvellous service. We'll have more to say in recognition of this service very soon.

We're looking for two new members who can bring relevant skills, experience and a commitment to good governance, in areas such as:

- Community representation and stakeholder engagement - land, park or environmental management
- Governance, strategic planning or risk management
- Financial or organisational expertise
- Working collaboratively as part of a board

Appointments are made through a formal, merit-based selection process managed by NSW Crown Lands, including submission of a board member application, referee checks and final approval. For more details

on roles and responsibilities, selection process and how to apply contact gundaroo@park.gundaroo.org.

These voluntary positions offer a valuable opportunity to help guide the future management of Gundaroo Park for the benefit of the community.

Gundaroo Park Land Manager Board

Gundaroo Common Trust AGM

The Gundaroo Common Trust held its AGM on Tuesday, 24 March 2026 at St Joseph's Church Hall, with a turnout of 16. Constructive discussion took place across a range of topics.

As well as routine financial and governance business, other items discussed included:

- **Agistment fees:** A proposal to increase the quarterly agistment fee from \$45 to \$50 per head of cattle was considered but not carried.
- **Sustainable funding:** With ongoing uncertainty around Crown Lands funding sources, fundraising was identified as a pressing priority. Discussion focussed on developing new fundraising approaches to support essential management activities, including weed control and boundary fence maintenance.
- **Board succession:** Trust Board positions will be open for election at next year's AGM, providing an opportunity for community members to become involved in the governance and future direction of the Common. Those interested in joining the Trust (Cont. p3) must have been

Local News

(From p2) a Commoner for six months prior to election.

The Trust remains committed to the sustainable management of the Common and to ensuring it continues to serve the needs of Commoners and the Gundaroo community.

We want to know what you find on the Common! Please submit your plant and animal observations via iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>).



What has your Community Association been up to?

The big event for the GCA this month was our AGM. The night was well attended and elections went smoothly, thanks to Sue Burns, with all vacant committee positions filled. We even got ourselves a new Treasurer! Many thanks to our outgoing Treasurer, Zak Looker, and committee members Deb Colliver and Allan Gibson. Here is our 2026-27 committee:

President: Cate Thomas
Secretary: Sue Farnham
Treasurer: Elizabeth Sisley *new
Committee: Barbie Vertucci
Committee: Bill Vertucci
Committee: Sue Kominek
Committee: Christine Gaul *new
Committee: Maartje Sevenster

One other important achievement this month is the formation of the Festival Sub-committee. We have

six enthusiastic members who've already started the planning for our Community Festival on Sunday 8 November this year. You'll start seeing ads in the Gazette to highlight the date and what's on at the Festival. Look out for exciting new events to be included, plus all the usual fun stalls, music and demonstrations. There'll be something for everyone!

Yass Valley Japanese encephalitis warning

Yass Valley LGA has been identified by NSW Health as a high-risk area for Japanese encephalitis (JE), a serious illness spread by infected mosquitoes.

The warning relates to outdoor recreational activities such as camping, caravanning, boating, hunting and fishing in the LGA and

has come following a prolonged mosquito season and recent detection by surveillance for the disease in Hay in late February.

NSW Health has expanded free access to the JE vaccine to people who live in, or who plan to visit high-risk local government areas for these activities, following detection of the virus late in the mosquito season.

Other LGAs listed as high-risk areas are Armidale, Ballina, Bathurst, Byron, Oberon, Tweed and Walcha.

JE is a rare but serious illness spread by infected mosquitoes. While many people experience mild illness, it can cause severe neurological illness with headache, convulsions and reduced consciousness and in rare cases can be fatal.

DAWN SERVICE

Gundaroo War Memorial
Saturday 25 April 2026



Dawn Service Commences 5:30am

The Gundaroo Monuments Sub-Committee of the Gundaroo Community Association invites the Gundaroo Community to the 2026 ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

Please assemble by 5:25am at the War Memorial on the corner of Cork and Harp Streets.

The service will be followed by breakfast at the Gundaroo Soldiers Memorial Hall hosted by the Soldiers' Memorial Hall and Gundaroo Men's Shed. Bacon and egg rolls will be available for purchase. EFTPOS facilities will be available (preferred).

Funds raised will be shared between the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Men's Shed and the Monuments Sub-Committee.

Neat Street Coffee Van will also have coffee and other hot beverages available for purchase at the Hall.

Noticeboard

Yass Valley Council

Autumn School Holiday Program

We have lots of fun activities and craft at the library from rock painting and charcoal portraits to STEM mousetrap racers and a family movie. Secure your spot on our Humanitix page - <https://events.humanitix.com/host/yass-valley-council>

YVC Easter Opening Hours

- Library and Administration Building - Closed 3-6 April
- Visitor Information Centre - Closed Good Friday
- Transfer Stations – Closed Good Friday & Easter Monday

Logbook Run

A hands-on session for our young drivers and supervising adults to gain more driving confidence - Sunday 19 April - 9.30 to 1:30pm - Yass Community Centre. Lunch provided. Book via Customer Services or council@yass.nsw.gov.au

Yass Library

Pre-School Programs: *Wriggle and Rhyme*, 10am on Wednesdays and Pre-School Storytime, 10.30am on Mondays (during school term).

Mobile Library: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month: Gundaroo 1.30-2.30pm; Sutton 3.00 – 4.00pm. Currently operating a reduced service - look for the library flag and car in our normal parking spot.

Recruiting Campaign

With our recruiting campaign underway, keep an eye on the website (careers section) and Facebook for all our latest job vacancies. Please share our recruiting posts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn with interested friends, groups and colleagues!

Yass Rail Trail

Check out the designs of the proposed 4.5 km walking and cycling path along the disused Yass Tramway corridor from Yass Junction to Yass Town. We want to hear your views – complete our online Your Voice Counts survey by 24 April, search: <https://yourvoicecounts.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au/yass-rail-trail>

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BY 24 APRIL 2026 TO
HAVE YOUR SAY!



From the desk

A quick glance at your Gundaroo Gazette this month indicates the variety of interests and activities our community is involved in, from keeping a weather eye on what's happening in local government through to history, arts and culture, entertainment and sport.

This month is the Anzac Day Dawn Service marking the service of locals and others, past and present in our defence. The event is one of our most important and successful of our year and is organised by an outstanding group of serving and former defence personnel and committed locals. Details of the service are on the previous page.

In terms of local governance, it appears the Springdale Solar Farm will not proceed with questions asked about what went wrong, and questions are also being asked about the process behind the new 80km/hour speed limit on Sutton Road.

In our community groups, AGMs were held by the Gundaroo Community Association and the Gundaroo Common Trust and a new Board for Gundaroo Park starts on 3 April. The Board is looking for two new members, so if you're keen to serve the community check out the process in our story.

The Historical Society paid a visit to the Braidwood Museum, and in arts, culture and entertainment we have a new exhibition starting at the Cork Street Gallery and the fabulous Small Halls concert returns to the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Another Koala Stew poetry night is running at the Gundaroo Inn.

In sport the Goats have finished another successful season and Auskick is in the middle of its run.

Thank you to all our contributors, advertisers and helpers.

The Gundaroo Gazette Team

Noticeboard

Cuppa Time Gundaroo

Come to Cuppa Time to catch up with friends or meet new people. Everyone is welcome. If you need a lift let us know.

When: 4th Wednesday of the month
from 1.30 to 3.30pm

Where: Gundaroo Hall

Tea, coffee, freshly baked scones and locally-made jam available.

No charge but donations accepted.

Cuppa Time is for social contact and community building.

Contact Colin Lee info@gundaroohall.org.au if you want to help. Otherwise, just come and join us for a cuppa.

Koala Stew

The GCA Arts & Culture sub-committee
presents

Koala Stew - Poetry at the Pub

Wednesday, 8 April from 7pm

All welcome

Sutton Sew n Sews

St Peter's Church Hall Sutton

Second and fourth Wednesday

9.30am – 12.00noon

Enjoy a cuppa and a chat about
quilting, crochet, knitting, patchwork,
embroidery and more.

Contact: Therese Kershaw 0428 857 634

Gundaroo Sewing Group

2nd Sunday every month from 3pm
at Cork Street Café.

All ages and levels of skill are welcome.
Come along for a cuppa, sewing questions,
discussion or work on your next project.

Produce Share Group

Held by the Gundaroo Growers group 1st Sunday every
month from 3-4pm
at Gundaroo Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

Knitters and Crocheters

Join us for a social knit/crochet.

Where: Cork Street Café

When: 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm

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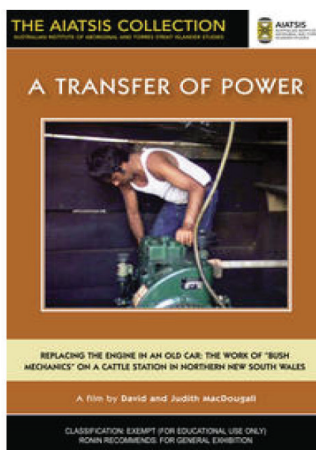
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Gundaroo Film Society

Saturday 18 April 2026, Gundaroo Hall



Screens at 7pm

Transfer of Power
(Oz short) Aboriginal bush mechanics' engine swap illuminates deep cultural ties at Collum Collum Station. (21 mins)

The Teacher who promised the Sea
The buried memories of the Spanish Civil War become unearthed as a woman searches for the remains of her grandfather's father and discovers the story of an idealistic young teacher from Tarragona. (1hr45m)



Screens at 7.45pm

Doors open at 6pm

BYO meals and drinks including glasses; Tea and coffee provided; Ice-creams available for \$5 at intermission

Due to our copyright obligations we have rigorous membership and attendance rules. Members or guests of members must be 18+years old to attend. Yearly membership is \$55/per person.

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Gundaroo Rural Fire Brigade

VALE MALCOLM LAWRIE

A post put into the local Gundaroo Facebook page by Kevin Curtis read: “Vale Malcolm Lawrie: A statistician, an adventurer, an international skier, Men’s Shed member, choir member, long serving bush fire brigade member, successful owner builder and extraordinary musician” to name just some of his talents.



Malcolm Lawrie was a long time member of the Gundaroo Rural Fire Brigade. He made a lasting impression on many of the current, active fire brigade members. He was a most diligent equipment officer during Michael Cliff’s time as Captain. Michael speaks very highly of his service and meticulous care of the brigade’s equipment. To Scott Shearer, now a deputy, Malcolm was a conscientious and supportive mentor. Malcolm meant a lot to many of us currently serving in the brigade.

Unfortunately Malcolm wasn’t well enough to attend our Medals and Awards Luncheon, on 3rd August, 2025, so Michael Cliff (Captain when Malcolm was serving) and long time friend and brigade member, Kevin Curtis, presented Malcolm with a Life Membership Certificate and medal after the event. Malcolm, a true gentleman, will be greatly missed.

Gundaroo Rural Fire Brigade AGM 2026

Please come along and support your Brigade at our AGM at 7.30pm, on Wednesday, 29th April, 2026, in the Gundaroo RFS Training room. A light supper will be served at the conclusion.

Support Your Local Brigade

Want to help but can’t volunteer? Donations over \$2 are **tax-deductible**, and help us maintain our equipment and support training. Your support helps keep our community safe—thank you! You can donate: at our pub raffles, by dropping spare change into the firefighter’s hat at the shop, or by emailing gundarooofs@gmail.com for our bank details.

Burn Notifications & Fire Permits

We are now in the **Fire Season**, so you will need a fire permit, so please check via the Fire Permit Application information in the [NSW RFS Guardian Portal](#).

****** We also recommend a quick email to the Gundaroo Brigade at: gundarooofs@gmail.com (Please remember we’re just volunteers so allow for some time to inspect your burn pile)

Online: https://nswrfsprod.service-now.com/guardian_csp?id=guardian_index

Yass Fire Control: 6226 3100 (Mon-Fri, business hours).

Stay fire-safe and always follow the conditions of your permit.

Camp Kianinny adventure

Our fabulous Year 7 cohort braved the weather as they headed off to Camp Kianinny in Tathra for three days of outdoor adventure activities. Kianinny offers a breathtaking natural setting and a program that encourages students to step out of their comfort zones.

We spent a day on the beach playing cricket and other games, walking, building castles and drawing in the sand. Back on camp base, we made rafts, built campfires, flew through the air on the flying fox and were guided through a range of cooperative activities. It was a busy but satisfying experience during which we hung out with old friends and made new ones.

Thanks to our teachers for taking time out from their own lives to organise and supervise our Year 7 camp which will be forever etched in our memories.



Visit to Braidwood Museum

Members of the Gundaroo & District Historical Society committee recently visited Braidwood Museum to see its exhibits, family history archives and to learn more about how it operates.

The property, originally built in the 1840s as the Royal Hotel, was purchased in 1970 by the local historical society as a result of a major fundraising effort. Since then the museum, historical society and archives have been run by dedicated volunteers, although they currently have a part-time, paid person - Nathan Pharaoh - to run the museum for a period of six months.

Nathan showed us around the museum, its exhibits and facilities, including a new building at the back of the property that was built with bushfire recovery grant money and answered our many questions. The museum has a varied collection ranging from personal items originally owned by Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson, an early white settler after whom the town was named, to much larger items such as the 1864 Apple Chitter/ Crusher (cider press) shown in the photograph. New items are regularly offered to the museum including a box of 1000 35mm slides of central Australia from the early 1950s. A Go Fund Me campaign is underway to raise funds for digitising these - see www.braidwoodmuseum.org.au if you wish to contribute or for further information about the museum.

Open from Thursday to Monday, the museum is an interesting place to visit as a day trip or if you are passing through.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Gundaroo & District Historical Society will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 20 May in the Literary Institute. All are welcome to come along.

Contact: historicalsocietygundaroo@gmail.com for information and membership queries.



Nathan showing the 1864 cider press to G&DHS committee members



Gundaroo Public School News

RFS Talk

We were fortunate to have our local Rural Fire Service visit, sharing important messages about fire safety, emergencies and how they protect our community. We are very grateful to the RFS for taking the time to visit and support our students' learning.

Cross Country Practice

You may have seen us out and about practicing for our school Cross Country Carnival! We feel very lucky to be able to use the streets around our village as part of our training. Our carnival will be held on Thursday 2nd April.

AFL Auskick

With the Gundaroo Jets Auskick kicking off in the community soon, we began building the excitement at school with an AFL clinic. With many of our students keen to get involved, it was fantastic to see their enthusiasm grow as they built confidence, developed new skills and enjoyed the experience of playing AFL together.



Open classrooms

We loved welcoming families into our classrooms for our recent Open Classrooms event. It was wonderful to see parents exploring our spaces and engaging with the learning across the school. A big thank you to our P&C for organising a BBQ, which added to the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the afternoon.

PSSA representatives

Congratulations to our Regional Swimming and Zone PSSA representatives in soccer, touch football and rugby league. We are very proud of Hugh, Millie, Seamus, Kyren, Edie, Marley, Archie and Tyler for their efforts and for representing our school with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship.





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Do meat ants eat termites?

By Lisa Walmsley

Many of us have grown up stomping on ants' nests or running over them on our bikes hoping we didn't pick up any that were going to munch on us later. More recently, I have been giving my dogs bones to chew on, but the meat ants are so bad that they swarm the bone and remove all the meat in a day leaving the dogs very unhappy and hungry. It wasn't until I was much older that I learnt to love ants' nests because our local echidnas feast on them and I love that.

Some years ago, I was chatting with a turbine installation guy about the interesting things in his job. Among many things he mentioned that he had witnessed meat ants in termite mounds - so I had to investigate further.

As it turns out, meat ants are well known to predate on termites, which are part of their diet along with other insects and protein. Meat ants are aggressive, opportunistic predators. They congregate in large busy colonies with well defined foraging paths. While out hunting on trees and the ground they will come across termites.

They also strategically wait for a termite mound to be damaged, then invade the mound. Meat ants will swarm a compromised mound and overpower the termites when they find them. The meat ants have the ability to recruit other ants to the nest to assist in the downfall of the colony. However, they rarely wipe out an entire established colony as termites are very quick to repair damage and defend their mound.

It is thought that meat ants can use vibration detection to find termites in wood and, conversely, that termites can detect meat ants through vibrations which encourages the termites to stay quiet. The termite trails however lead the meat ants to pinpoint active areas.

While it is suggested that meat ants will not completely eliminate termites, they definitely can control them.

So next time you want to do a wheelie over an ants' nest, consider why they are there and what their likely food source is.



Australian meat ants
Photo credit: Helen Daley

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We were mostly impressed with their professionalism and communication throughout the whole process as well as guidance and advice to achieve the outcome we were after.

I strongly recommend Ray White Bungendore to anybody looking to buy or sell property."

Matt Williams

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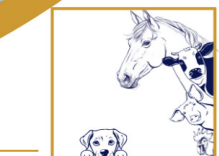
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Below Our Knees: Native Grasslands & Weeds Workshop

Landcare groups from the Upper Shoalhaven and the Yass District are running a hands-on native grasslands workshop for the Sutton and Gundaroo communities at Sutton on Sunday 11 April.

Facilitated by University of Wollongong social researcher Dr Sonia Graham, the day will combine paddock-based learning with collaborative planning aimed at building a community around tackling landscape scale management of challenges such as weeds and bettering native grassland and woodland ecosystems.

Other speakers include Gundaroo ecologist (and contributor to The Gundaroo Gazette) Sue McIntyre, Local Land Services Senior Natural Resource Management Advisor Andrew Taylor and representatives from Friends of Grasslands (FoG).

A spokesperson for the gathering said alongside our local woodland, native grasslands are one of our region’s most endangered and valuable ecosystems.

“Often overlooked, they support rich biodiversity, improve soil health, and contribute to productive, resilient properties,” the spokesperson said.

“This workshop will build practical skills and strengthen local connections to help us better understand and manage these special landscapes.”

The day is run in two sessions, the first covering what defines a native grassland, identifying species, assessing grassland condition, recognising key threats and management priorities and an onsite assessment of weed threats and action planning.

The second will look at identifying shared challenges and opportunities, setting accountable, achievable goals, building a supportive, community-led action network and creating a practical pathway towards thriving, biodiverse native grasslands across the district.

The organisers are suggesting people bring a neighbour or friend as “native grasslands don’t stop at fence lines, and neither should our learning”.

More information and bookings:

The workshop will be held on 11 April, from 9.00am till 1.00pm, at the Hall at St Peter’s Church and catering will be provided.

Register: [Below Our Knees: Native Grasslands & Weeds Gathering - Sutton & Gundaroo](#)

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare
Yass Area Network of Landcare

11 Apr 2026 | 9am-1pm
Sutton
Details & Registration
SCAN FOR MORE

NATIVE GRASSLANDS WORKSHOP
Below Our Knees:
Grassland & Weeds Gathering

Australian Government NSW Friends of Grasslands

This event is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and delivered for Local Land Services, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

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featuring Matt Richards (Gundaroo); Tullara (Qld)
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Sunday, 12 April

Tickets: \$35 (adults), \$25 (concession card holders)

Bookings essential: <https://festivalofsmallhalls.com/gundaroo-2026>

Drinks: Gundog Estate will be selling exceptional wine and beers

Meals from the Hall committee must be pre-ordered & prepaid by Thursday 9 April.

Main course (\$25): Slow cooked beef brisket or tasty mushroom brisket (vegetarian) on a Gundaroo-made roll with Italian fennel slaw and spiced potato wedges (add your own mustard, tomato sauce, BBQ sauce or Spicy Hot Sauce)

Dessert (\$15): Pistachio almond flan using seasonal fruit and homemade vanilla bean ice-cream using Tilba milk

Special dietary requirements: contact us to see if we can help.

Meal bookings: email your main course and/or dessert requirements to info@gundarooohall.org.au

Doors open at 6pm. Performances commence at 7pm.



The excellent Gundaroo Hall catering crew



Scan for details

New Exhibition at Cork St Café and Gallery

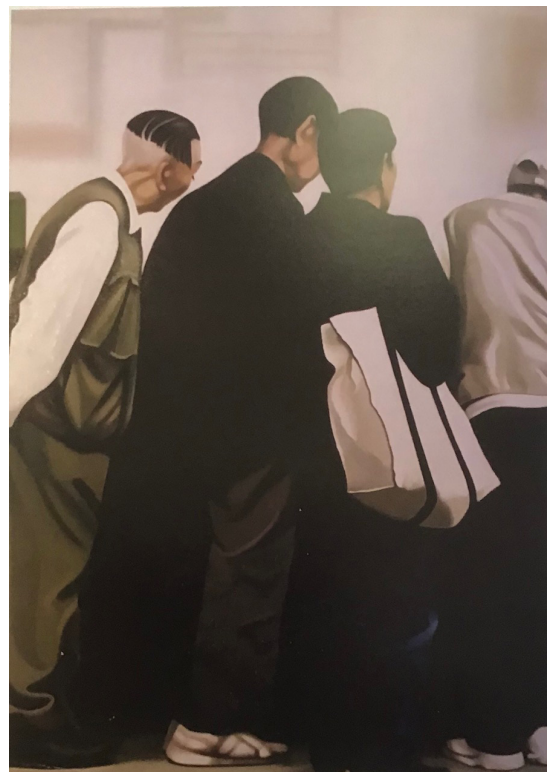
SURVIVORS AND NATURE

Cheryl Grant

11 April to 23 May 2026



Works in pencil, oils and acrylics
Exhibition opening Saturday 11 April by:
Justin Barwick
4pm-6pm
Cork Street Cafe and Gallery
24 Cork Street Gundaroo NSW 2620
Open Thursday to Sunday



PottersPopup! returns to Gundaroo

Over the Mothers' Day weekend in May, the grounds of St Mark's Anglican Church will once again be transformed into PottersPopup!, a lively artist-run handmade ceramics market dedicated to work being made in and around Gundaroo.

Building on the success of the last two years, the 2026 PottersPopup! will feature an expanded lineup of 16 potters all of whom have a shared love of clay, creativity and an association with Old Saint Luke's Studio on Shingle Hill Way under the mentorship of Ian Jones and Moraig McKenna.

Across the potters, there's a broad diversity of styles. Potters such as Jacqui Keogh, Colette Steindl and Liz Crowe produce unique and beautiful functional ware that celebrates the slow handmade. Pushing some boundaries of what is possible with clay, Kit Carpenter's collection of pop-primal sculptural forms add humour, sensuality and a touch of chaos to your daily rituals.

If your daily rituals are the outdoor kind, Leanne McKenzie's work features sculptural interest for gardens and Tess Neill's is lifelike animal creations. Both reflect their passion for nature. On the other hand, for Nerida McCarthy, Paul Dorman and Lesley Lebkowicz, making pots is about simple acts of generosity and sharing the joy of creativity with those who enjoy their work in the everyday.

Local potters Louise Duncan, Bronwen Wicks and Nurdan Kulluck Rennert make a beautiful range of functional pots inspired by a sense of curiosity and the fun of experimenting with shape, texture, surface decoration and firing style.

Of course it wouldn't be a ceramics event in Gundaroo without a healthy dose of wood-fired pots. You'll find work from pyromaniacs like Isabel Chen, Veronica Taylor, Sandie Johnson and Trevor Heldt.

Co-hosted by the Cork Street Café and St Mark's Anglican Church, PottersPopup! is an event for anyone who loves ceramics or things made by people who love Gundaroo.

Where: St Mark's Anglican Church, 24 Cork Street (next to Cork Street Cafe).

When: Saturday, 9 May & Sunday, 10 May (Mothers Day!), 10:00am to 3:00pm

Sales: By card or cash

Find out more: Instagram @potterspopup and Facebook



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Thank you to all those members of the Gundaroo community who have come in and been so supportive of our new pharmacy - it's been great to meet so many of you and we really appreciate your custom.

We've stocked up on a lot of over-the-counter items. We have some sports supports, tapes and rubs and a stock of mouthguards as we head into footy season. And don't forget sunscreen is still important during winter.

We have a range of skincare and haircare products and accessories, and also hair treatments. Skincare is important during winter when the cooler, drier weather can lead to eczema and psoriasis flares. There's a good selection of moisturisers, and we can help with minor skin flares after discussions with the pharmacist. For diabetics we have approval to supply under the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) and have stocked up on supplies. If you haven't heard of the NDSS, come in and chat - the scheme provides subsidised strips and needles/syringes for eligible patients in Australia.

We're working on approval for a vaccination service for our community. The approval is being finalised from NSW Department of Health, and further information will be made available shortly.

A couple of important housekeeping announcements.

If we don't have exactly what you are after, we'll do our best to order in for you. Orders from our regular wholesalers placed before 4pm arrive around 3pm the following day.

We're really happy to receive any feedback or suggestions that you'd like to make, verbally, via email or even by a note under the door. We're learning what specific requirements the community has, and looking forward to supplying what's possible for us to stock.

Just a reminder that our pharmacists are operating alone in the store, so if there's a note on the door Back in 5 minutes, please be patient with us. We will literally be back within 5 minutes. If it's any longer than that, we'll indicate a time for re-opening.

Really enjoying meeting everyone and hoping to get lots of feedback and suggestions as we learn more about the community.



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NSW SES - SUTTON UNIT

FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN FLOODS AND STORMS CALL 132 500
MISSION - NSW SES, SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING COMMUNITIES



It has been a busy few months for the Sutton SES. Storms and heavy rainfall has seen Sutton teams working locally, as well as assisting other SES units in Young, Yass, Goulburn and on the South Coast. As always, the Sutton team is ready to help communities well beyond our own – with members also deploying recently to Tamworth, Dubbo, Northern NSW and the Northern Territory.

Storms can happen any time of the year, and it's not too late to take action to help protect your property. Most of the jobs we attend are for fallen trees and leaking roofs. Taking preventative action now can reduce the impact of severe storms for you and your family:

- Fix any damage to your roof including broken or missing tiles and any leaks.
- Clean your gutters, downpipes and drains regularly to prevent blockages.
- Trim trees and branches that could potentially fall on your home or property.
- Download the *Hazards Near Me* app to stay up to date with the latest warnings.



Above: Sutton SES on the water in Canberra with the ACT SES

Who let the Boats out?

Sutton joined ACT SES crews on Lake Burley Griffin for the 2026 Who Let the Boats out Exercise. The annual flood training exercise is designed to strengthen core skills for on-water flood rescue and flood support operations. Participants practice skills such as manoeuvring, launching and docking vessels, search and rescue, recovering persons overboard, radio communications and navigation.



Above: Sutton members working together in a scenario at the Disaster Rescue Challenge in Parkes

Disaster Rescue Challenge

The Sutton team won the combined zone Disaster Rescue Challenge held in Parkes. 90 participants from across NSW put rescue skills and teamwork to the test - participating in realistic, high-pressure scenarios that were designed to mirror real emergency conditions. These kinds of events build on our regular training sessions, increasing skills and capability, ensuring that we are ready to support our community when it's needed.

Pride and Diversity

Sutton unit prides itself in being a very welcoming, diverse and inclusive unit. We have members who range in age from 17 to 76, run our own women's network, and welcome people of all abilities to our unit. Recently two of our members marched at the Sydney Mardi Gras Parade.

If you'd like to join our diverse and welcoming crew in helping our community, please get in touch: www.ses.nsw.gov.au/volunteer

We'd love to have you!

Below: Sutton members join the NSW SES at the Mardi Gras parade in Sydney





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The dangers of fishing tackle

Throughout March, Wildcare received a number of calls to our helpline as we usually would – but one theme stood out this month - entanglement in wire: the culprit, fishing line and lures, hooks and tackle.

For many, a day at the water's edge is a peaceful escape. But beneath the surface and along the embankment a threat lingers long after the anglers have gone home. Discarded fishing line is a near permanent pollutant, taking up to 600 years to decompose.

As animals move about, these thin lines can wrap around limbs, necks, or wings. Because the material doesn't stretch, it becomes a garrotte, cutting through skin, muscle, veins and bone. This leads to infections, loss of limbs or a total inability to move, leading to starvation – this is a slow, painful death for our endemic, unique wildlife.

Fishing line isn't the only offender, with fishers leaving entire hooks that pierce through the animal's skin leading to serious pain and infection. One of the rescues this month was a Boobook Owl which was spotted overhanging Lake Jerrabomberra, about three metres above the water. The hook and tackle was entangled and pierced through the owl's wing, so there was no way for the Boobook to escape.

Chrissy is a climbing arborist and knows these rescues well. It was only with her expertise that the Boobook was able to be retrieved from the tree. "The owl had a fishing hook in its wing and was trailing about 2-3 metres of fishing line. The owl perched in a tree and the line it was dragging around with it became tangled around the tree, dangerously trapping the owl. These kinds of entanglements break and dislocate wings and legs, and if not spotted by someone, they hang there until they die or are eaten alive by predatory species. It's an awful way to go," Chrissy said.

That same day, a call came through about a water dragon along the Queanbeyan River with a hook pierced through their snout. Affectionately named 'El Capitan', it took over three weeks of strategy, teamwork and patience to be able to locate and rescue El. Her rescuer, Diane, said that she woke up in the morning and thought 'today is the day'. After spending a few days simply being with the Captain, she had earned the trust of the water dragon, and she knew she would be able to safely rescue it. After several hours spent on the rocks, on the grass, looking at the sky, looking at the water, the Captain was finally settled and trusting enough for Diane to catch him and transport it to the vet for assessment.

Our wildlife already struggles to navigate the modern-day environment, urban sprawl, roads and wire fences to name a few - fishing line is one that fishers can easily avoid causing distress and even death for native animals. If your line gets snagged, please do all you can to retrieve as much of the line and tackle as possible from the environment. Someone's life depends on it.



The elusive water dragon named 'El Capitan' took more than three weeks to catch for rehabilitation



This Boobook owl was spotted 3m up a tree overhanging Lake Jerrabomberra.

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For more info visit: www.ses.nsw.gov.au



#NSWSES



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A busy month of Scouting

In case you haven't heard enough jokes recently, here's a cracker to get things rolling:

How do you wish a Scout happy camping? No idea? Read to the end!

In the meantime, it's been an outrageous month in Scouting. Apparently (according to Lola) Cubs is much more fun than dance, or it certainly was on the evening we went to the Aqua Park in Canberra. It was the last day of the Aqua Park season, and it was magical. Think a collection of Gundaroo Cubs and Scouts slithering down giant inflatables with a backdrop of a misty Black Mountain, and a light rain settling on the sausage sizzle as everyone eventually emerged from the darkening lake.

Another evening closer to home was a trip to the horse paddock, where kind Sarah and Nicky showed us how to look after the big furry beasts. We patted, brushed and fed, and learnt lots about the dos and don'ts of being around horses. We also learnt fun facts about horses, the favourite being that they can't vomit or burp!

Since it's starting to get dark earlier now, it was a good time of year to squeeze in a session of evening fishing. As well as worms for bait, we also found Tommy the (terrified) turtle, moulded with mud, and thoroughly tested the waters. Perhaps unsurprisingly given the noise levels, the only catch was human, and we've renamed the pastime (it's now "immersive fishing").

Still to come on the scouting list before the holidays is a bush walk round Mcleods Creek Nature Reserve on the Marked Tree Line, and a (super dynamic) book swap.

Great Gundaroo Coat Swap

And the last item on the Scouts agenda this month isn't just for Scouts – it's an invitation to everyone to join in the inaugural Great Gundaroo Coat Swap. This nifty event will be happening from Tuesday 31st March to Thursday 2nd April, when we'll be putting racks outside the Hall (thank you Hall!) for people to bring or take winter coats. It's the perfect opportunity to release those unwanted coats from your clutches and/or step away with something snazzy for yourself or your kidlets. Think of it as the warmup in the run-up to winter. Any leftover coats will be donated to a winter charity in town. So bring your coats and come on down!

And finally, here's what you've been waiting for: with a tent-ative smile!



Some of the fisherfolk



Contemplating the aqua park



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Another season run and done for the Gundaroo Goats

As the autumn months roll in, the Gundaroo Goats have farewelled another summer of cricket, camaraderie and the odd victory here and there. On the field this month our Senior Goats missed out on a spot in the grand final after being knocked out in a home semifinal by the Hall Monitors. In some consolation for the boys, Hall went on to beat the much-fancied, carry-over champs Yass, to claim their maiden premiership in the Yass Valley Trigg Shield competition.

Off the field both our Seniors and Junior Goats celebrated their respective presentation nights, providing an excellent opportunity to reflect upon another great season of Goats cricket and reward those that excelled on and off the field.

On the all-important night of nights for the Senior Goats – the awards went as follows:

- Clubman of the Year – Jack Riley
- Effort Award – Jamie McRae
- Shenanigans Award – Abhinav Varma
- F-Cup – Toby Gunn
- Players Player – Dave Jean

The following players received the Junior Goat awards:

- U11 Club Award – Sammy Richter
- U11 Effort Award – Xanthe Carmody
- U11 Excellence Award – Archer Leeson
- U13 Club Award – Jon Walsh
- U13 Effort Award – Darcy Egan
- U13 Excellence Award – Max Leeson

Max Leeson, Russell Geniola, Darcy Egan and Hamish McRae were also awarded match balls for making their Senior Goats debut in season '25-'26.

The major award for the evening, the Junior Goat of the Year, was awarded to George Gavranich, who had an outstanding season for the club, with lots of wickets and runs, a desire to get better every week and a great attitude. Well done, George!

Finally the Goats wish to once again thank our very special sponsors: the KRNC Group, The Gundaroo Veterinary Clinic and Millie and all the team and Neat St Café. Without the support of these great local businesses, we simply can't do what we do, so thank you!



Dave Jean (r) - Players Player



George Gavranich - Jr Goat of the Year



Goat Man - Senior



u11 Award Recipients



Senior - Award Recipients



u11 Gundaroo Goats



u13 Recipients



u13 Gundaroo Goats

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Community Website

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(Cork Street)

All services start at 4.00pm

Communion Services: Every first Sunday

Contact: The Ven Dr 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: Every 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

Gunning Uniting Church worship team, with kids' activities.

Contact: John Donley — 0431 750 241

Ecumenical Services (Currently suspended)

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

The Gundaroo Gazette

Editorial Team: GCA Community Website Sub Committee

Graphic Designer: Sophie Leeson Street delivery team Fiona Martin, Colin Lee, Julie Smith and Maureen Trevanion

All enquiries, contributions, public notices and ads email: gazette@gundaroo.org

Publication: Every month except January. Deadline for content is 5.00pm on 25th of the preceding month. Contributions received by around the 21st of the month most appreciated.

Text/photos: Please supply text in an MS Word document attached to an email. Preferably send photos in separate files, rather than embedded in the document.

Advertising: Ads can be either portrait or landscape. Send artwork in Word, PDF or PNG format close to the dimensions below. Half or full-page ads by negotiation.

Size & payment options	Small 85mm x 55mm	Medium 120mm x 85mm	Large 185mm x 85mm
Payment for 1 month	\$30	\$40	\$50
Payment for 3 contiguous months	\$80	\$110	\$145
Annual (11 Editions)	\$290	\$400	\$510

Donations: Donations are very much appreciated to help with publication costs as the Gazette is administered by the not-for-profit [Gundaroo Community Association](http://www.gundaroo.org/gazette/). Bank details are on the Gazette main home page at www.gundaroo.org/gazette/

Disclaimer: The Editorial Team of the Gundaroo Gazette reserves the right to alter, omit or change classifications and advertisements. Furthermore, the Editorial Team of the Gundaroo Gazette does not endorse or promote services contained in the newsletter. While every care is exercised, the views and/or opinions expressed in this newsletter within editorial articles do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the Gundaroo Community Association or any other organisation associated with the Gundaroo Gazette.

Gundaroo Community Association Defibrillator

Gundaroo is fortunate to have a portable automated external defibrillator (AED), centrally located and ready for use in a cardiac emergency around the village.

It is kept in a **locked cabinet fixed to the outside front wall of the Gundaroo PO and shop**, together with a list of 'core responders' (shown below).

There is also a **New Defibrillator location**, located in a **locked cabinet on the outside southern wall of the Men's Shed building at the Gundaroo Oval**.

Interested in being a responder? Contact the Gundaroo Community Association at gca@gundaroo.org

Name	Address	Telephone / Email
Emily Wallis	Morning St	6236 8948 (h) 0404 215 531 emily.wallis@canberra.edu.au
Kate Dardis	Cork St	0499 299 750 yougotmail@y7mail.com
Tony Ward	Cork St	0450 624 931 tjwardmail@gmail.com
Darren Schoevers	Cork St	0402 494 604 darren.schoevers@defence.gov.au
Stephanie McCaffery	Buranda Lane	0427 300 393 stephanie.mccaffery@anu.edu.au
Madison Nolan	Lomandra St, Gundaroo	0400732328 madiallum97@gmail.com

Gundaroo Services and Contacts

LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES

Fire/Police/Ambulance: Dial 000

Service	Contact
Defibrillator (AED)	See this page for the list of core responders.
Police Queanbeyan Yass Gunning (stops at Bellmount Forest) Collector (includes Gundaroo)	6298 0599 6226 9399 4824 9270; wise1dan@police.nsw.gov.au Snr Constable Daniel Wise 4824 9240; fitz1jos@police.nsw.gov.au Snr Constable Joe Fitzgerald
NSW Ambulance (non-urgent)	131 233
Fire Brigades: Gundaroo Back Creek Sutton Yass River-Nanima Fire Control (Yass) Bellmount Forest	0414 369 214 (Dave Robinson) 0429 443 260 (Ben Haseler) 0418 303 232 (John Cooper) 6100 6252 (Duty Officer) 6226 3100 brfs@icloud.com
State Emergency Service SES Sutton	132 500
Other emergency services: Gunning District Nurse Veterinary Surgeon Injured wildlife	4845 1166 6236 8222 (Eamon Ryan, Bill Ryan) 6299 1966 (Wildcare, 24 hours)
Justice of the Peace	0425 650 283 (Rachel McBeath) 6236 8115 (Rebecca Harris)
Yass Valley Council Council Office Gundaroo Councillor	6226 1477 0429 930 628 (Cecil Burgess)
Gundaroo Community Association	0490 096 254 (Cate Thomas) gca@gundaroo.org
Soldiers Memorial Hall	info@gundarooahall.org.au
Gundaroo Park Land Manager	0411 400 897 (Ron Miller)
Gundaroo Common Trust	6236 8129 (Helen Willett)
Police Paddock	0418 496 908 (Sue Burns)
Village Monuments	0413 137 761 (Phil Gaden)
Gundaroo Public School	6236 8115 (Brysson Leeson)
Gundaroo Outside School Hours (GOSH)	0427 410 537
Ist Gundaroo Scout Group (Joey's to Rovers)	0415 677 943 (Cath Woodward) cath.woodward@nsw.scouts.com.au
Gundaroo Playgroup (Little Explorers)	Anthony 0425363471 Samantha 0422484815
Gundaroo & District Historical Society	0418 496 908 (Sue Burns)
Gundaroo Arts and Culture	gundarooartsculture@gmail.com
Gundaroo Community Singers	msevenst@gmail.com (Maartje Sevenster)
'Gundaroo Loves Books' Book Club	0406 377 025 (Kylie Bourne)
Gundaroo Men's Shed	0403061322 (Andrew Wright) Mensshed@gundaroo.org
Gundaroo churches	See previous page for services & contacts.
Civil Marriage Celebrant	0401 267 851 (Lorraine Bird) enquiries@lorrainebird.com.au