The Gundaroo Gazette

Community | Cohesion | Harmony

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Council seeks large Special Rate Variation

Yass Valley Council (YVC) is considering applying for a Special Rate Variation (SVR) of almost 71% as a solution to its significant financial problems and a means of improving rather than reducing the services it provides to the community.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 14 October Council voted 5-4 to begin a public consultation process to get opinions from ratepayers on an SRV and, if it was to go ahead, whether they preferred it phased in over one, two or three years.

The decision on whether to make the application will be made at Council's December meeting following the consultation period which ends on 27 November. The application goes to the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and Council must inform it by 30 November that it will potentially apply for an SRV. A final decision by Council on whether to go ahead with the application is expected to be made in February 2027.

Detailed information on the impact of a potential rise in rates, including calculators for individual ratepayers, is available on Council's Your Voice Counts portal. There's also a community survey on the portal to gather opinions. Drop-in sessions will also be run in Gundaroo and Sutton (see YVC column in Noticeboard). As happens currently, any new rate level will be calculated on urban, rural and business classifications but won't apply to other service fees such as waste management and water.

The decision to consider an SRV followed a Financial Sustainability Assessment report commissioned by Council from AEC Consulting. It's the third attempt by YVC for an SRV in the past decade: the first in 2016 was successful but a second in 2025 was knocked back by Councillors 6-3. The vote on the current plan was closer with a one-vote margin.

Councillors concerned

At least two councillors who voted against the proposal were concerned that there had been too much reliance on the consultants' report and that other options weren't looked at.

At the EGM Cr Charry foreshadowed a motion calling for an urgent assessment by the Minister for Local Government of Council's financial position and "its ability to deliver an accountable and acceptable, long-term financial recovery". Because the motion on consultation was successful Cr Charry's motion wasn't debated.

Cr Charry said ministerial scrutiny was needed because of the gravity of the situation.

He would have "… asked Minister Hoenig to consider the full range of assistance and oversight available to him…including a performance improvement order, a financial controller and/or any other measures … deemed appropriate".

He said there were two "financial dilemmas", long-term underfunding of infrastructure, particularly roads, and the expected rise in loan repayments on the Crago Mill development.

"Council must clearly explain to our community how much additional rates revenue would address each problem," he said. "Paying more rates must come with a clear commitment to service delivery. Residents are entitled to know what will improve and when."

(Cont. pg 2)

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(from pg 1) He also queried what came from the 2016 SRV, what it delivered, what it didn't and "why are we here again".

Cr Adrian Cameron also questioned the success of the previous SRV, asking why another SRV would produce better results. He was also concerned about the consultants' report.

"The AEC report is titled 'Financial Sustainability Review' when the brief from YVC, developed without consultation with Councillors referred only to an SRV, not a full review of YVC finances, and without exploring a range of options for a sustainable future," he said.

He believed other possibilities should have been looked at such as the sale of investment land held by Council.

Cr Cameron was also concerned that engagement by Council with the community on financial issues should have been happening for most of this year rather than for a month at the end of the year and with just three options for a permanent SRV.

He encouraged ratepayers to get involved and to express their views, saying there were several points at which the SRV could be knocked back.

"There are the December and February meetings where Councillors can say 'no' to this and look for other ways to solve the problem," he said.

"And given that IPART operates as an independent body, there's no guarantee that it will say yes to such a large increase."

Council seeks other funding opportunities

At the EGM Council also committed to look at other funding opportunities with the following motion:

"Council commits to securing suitable grants to supplement rates income and continue advocating and supporting our peak local government bodies to advocate for a fairer increase to the Federal Assistance Grants as well as finding annual efficiencies and savings of $500,000 (recurrent) and implementation of the Financial Sustainability Roadmap through rolling service reviews and investigations into service delivery."

GCA Update

By Cate Thomas

The big event potentially affecting Gundaroo this October was the Yass Valley Council Extraordinary General Meeting on 14 October and your Gundaroo Community Association (GCA) was there. This meeting was about YVC announcing and voting on their intention to make an application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV). There has been talk for about a year about this SRV, at a rate of around 40% spread over three years. What took us all by surprise at the meeting on the 14th was the massive 71% increase now proposed.

A recent independent assessment of the YVC's finances highlighted an even bigger shortfall in its financial situation than previously thought – a whopping $8.3m per annum. It is believed that a serious rate increase was the only way to address that shortfall and the YVC has put a three-option choice on the table for the community to consider. The options are that the increase happens over either one year, two years, or three years - all will result in a 71% increase overall.

The application for an SRV goes to a NSW mob called the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPaRT) and they require a comprehensive community consultation to be undertaken by YVC before it can be considered for an SRV. This process has commenced and included direct consultation by staff at the recent Murrumbateman Field Days. The overall consultation process ends on 27 November 2026.

To understand more about the process and to let the YVC know what you think about this application for an SRV, go to www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au and click on the Your Voice Counts banner on the Home page.

Also, write to:

Mayor Jasmin Jones
jjones@yass.nsw.gov.au

Cr Alvaro Charry
acharry@yass.nsw.gov.au

Cr Cecil Burgess
cburgess@yass.nsw.gov.au

Cr Adrian Cameron
acameron@yass.nsw.gov.au

You can still support Phoebe

You can still support past Gundaroo Public School student Phoebe Blake who has been named as a member of the Australian Under 18 Women's Indoor Hockey team that will play in South Africa in December 2026. With no external funding or sponsorship provided by the Australian Government or Hockey Australia, Phoebe is seeking assistance from local businesses or individuals through making a tax deductible donation. You can read the full story in the October Gundaroo Gazette or just make your donation at:

https://asf.org.au/campaigns/phoebe-blake/send-phoebe-to-south-africa

Gundaroo Festival: Something for Everyone

"Our aim for this year's festival is to offer something for everyone and we really believe we have achieved this," says GCA President Cate Thomas. Cate and her small hard working Festival team have put together a tantalising range of stalls and entertainment which showcase local entrepreneurs, community groups and local talent.

The day kicks off at 11am, 8 November with a Welcome to Country by Ngunawal Elder and Gundaroo resident, Tyronne Bell and the official opening, before duo Derryth and Dino hit the stage. At midday the young students from Encore Dance will display their skills, then an array of local talented musicians will take over for the rest of the afternoon.



Festival goers can browse the range of crafts, plants, homewares and bric-a-brac on offer and get some handy hints on wildlife care and recycling. Multiple community groups will be on hand to share information about the organisations and how you can be involved.

There will be plenty of tasty food available thanks to the Men's Shed, Neat St, Love Made Edible, Gundaroo Hall and the Scouts, to name a few and the P&C cake stall and the famous Bluefields ice cream are offering desserts, so bring your appetites!

Kids will be well catered for with craft options, a soft play zone for the young ones, an inflatable soccer pitch and of course the RFS and SES with their interactive demonstrations. And in breaking news the crew from Bushfield Farm will be bringing their camels for a unique shared experience.

This year's Art Show will be bigger and better than ever according to organiser Liz Harris with more than 20 of our local artists displaying their talents - ceramics, metal works and works on canvas. Make sure you take the time to admire and cast your vote in the People's Choice Award. A new addition to the festival is the Junior Art Show where our local youngsters will display their talents at the Scout Hall.

Also new this year is the Show and Shine; a must-see for appreciators of classic vehicles. Expect to see a 1934 Dodge truck, a 1987 Jaguar XJ12 and several other beautifully maintained locally-owned classic vehicles; each with a story of its own. Coordinator Bill Vertucci has been thrilled with the response to his call out for cars.

Yass Valley Council Mayor Jasmin Jones has kindly agreed to judge the ever popular Scarecrow Competition and after the announcement of winners of the raffle, Art Show and Junior Art Show lucky draw winners, the day will finish with some toe tapping tunes.

Please go to gundaroo.org to enter competitions or email festival@gundaroo.org to volunteer or for further information.

See you at the Festival!



The winning artwork of the People's Choice Award from 2024. See the artist Ian Fleming painting live on canvas at this year's festival.

Noticeboard

Yass Valley Council

Community invited to have a say on proposed rate increases

Yass Valley residents are being encouraged to consider the options and have their say on a potential rate increase through formal community engagement following Council's decision to consider applying for a Special Rate Variation. (See story on Page 1)

Council is seeking community feedback on three options for how and when the potential increase would be implemented.

Community engagement is open between 16 October and 27 November 2026, with surveys and submissions available through Council's Your Voice Counts portal, supported by workshops, drop-in sessions and discussion booths at community events and hardcopies available from Yass Valley Library (including the Mobile Library Van that visits Gundaroo from 1.30-2.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month outside the Hall) and Council offices.

At drop-in sessions residents can come along at any time and stay for as long as they need. Members of staff will be available to speak to residents and ask any questions they may have. Drop-in sessions will be held as follows:

Sunday 8 November: 9.00am-1.30pm - Sutton Village Country Market

Tuesday 10 November: 10.00-11.30am - Gundaroo Hall

Wednesday 11 November: 4.30pm-6.00pm - Sutton Hall

Residents can understand the options, calculate the potential rates impact on their property and have their say ahead of Council's decision on next steps at the December 2026 meeting. Scan the QR code for more information.

Yass Valley Council Ordinary Council Meeting

Next meeting: Thursday 26 November, 4pm, Administration Building.

The community can attend the meetings at the Council Chambers or watch via livestream. The Public Forum is held on the Tuesday before the Council Meeting at 5.15pm.

Mornings with the Mayor

Monday 30 November, 11am–12pm, Administration Building.
Book through the YVC website.

Australia Day 2027 nominations

To nominate an individual, group, or organisation that has made a positive contribution to the Yass Valley community go to Your Voice Counts. Nominations due 30 November.

From the desk

The big 'political' news in our neck of the woods is the proposal for significant increases to our rates. While news from those who manage matters for the community (whether national, state or at the local shire level) is not always to our liking it is important to keep a few things in mind.

- Generally speaking people get actively involved in councils and parliaments and make their decisions based on what they perceive to be in the best interests of their constituents. While we all have different values and different ideas about what is 'best', this is the intention of most.
- Being a politician or public official at all levels is time-consuming. They work extremely hard, have very little time off, are not lazy or overpaid and live a life in the public eye.
- We need to have willing, informed people to undertake these roles for a democracy to be effective. Not everyone wants to take on this role.
- We also need informed constituents who provide constructive feedback or suggest other approaches and use their precious vote in an informed way.
- Being aggressive, rude or over-bearing to others won't change their mind on an issue. It's much better to sit down, have a chat, find out where they are coming from and offer alternative options.

We are never going to get 100% agreement on the way forward but let's work together in a constructive and civil way. That is what a democracy and civil society should be about.

Cuppa Time

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.

Knitters and Crocheters

Join us for a social knit/crochet.
Where: Cork Street Café
When: 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm
Meet others, enjoy a cuppa, work on your knitting/ crochet/fibre project, share skills & knowledge.

Produce Share Group

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



Historical Society news

The Gundaroo and District Historical Society will have a stand at the Gundaroo Festival on 8 November with a display of local historic items.

In addition we will have our 2027 calendar for sale. The price remains $15 which makes it an excellent local, affordable and useful gift.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday 18 November at 7.00pm in the Literary Institute.

Contact us at historicalsocietygundaroo@gmail.com.



Who is this small child on a tractor? See our 2027 calendar to find out.

Christmas carol performance

At 6pm on Wednesday 16 December the Gundaroo Community Singers will perform their Christmas carol repertoire at the Cork Street Gallery Café which will open for dinner (bookings essential). So put the date in your diaries!

For those who would like to join the choir in its performance of the beautiful *Coventry Carol* on 16 December, please attend the choir's practice session at the Gundaroo Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 November. You would also need to ensure you are available for final rehearsal, at this stage planned for Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm at the Hall.

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Presented by the Gundaroo Community Association Inc.

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GEELAN EARTHWORKS & CIVIL

The Gundaroo Common is a 60ha parcel of NSW Crown land on the eastern edge of the village that was gazetted in 1870 and is managed by the community, for the community. You can access the Common from gates at the eastern ends of David Street, Harp Street and Lot Street, and the northern boundary with Rosamel Street.

Cattle report

Calving is underway and the youngsters are with their mothers. Eight had arrived by late-October with two more on the way. Mums and bubs are doing well. Please give them lots of space and, as always, keep dogs on the lead and away from the cattle. Dogs could be injured or killed by protective cows if allowed too close.

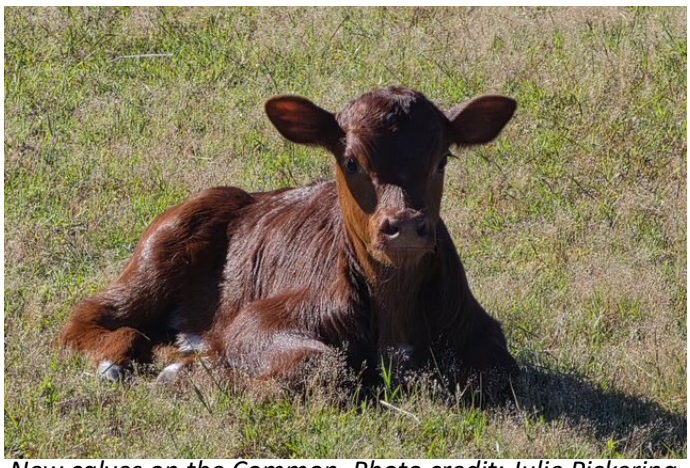
Bushfire season

We are heading into the bushfire season. The Common borders the eastern boundary of Gundaroo and fuel load management is an important part of keeping the village safe. With the recent wet weather, grasses are growing abundantly. The Trust will monitor fire hazards and manage grass through grazing management as opposed to mechanical methods. This entails strategic paddock rotation and grazing with the aim of having low impact on the ecosystem as a whole. Of course, the kangaroos are also doing their part! Please respect our ongoing management practices



New calves on the Common. Photo credit: Julie Pickering

through the next season, including leaving internal gates as you find them (generally closed), always closing external gates, and treating the cattle with respect.



New calves on the Common. Photo credit: Julie Pickering

Vandalism

In the last issue, the Trust reported a number of instances of vandalism (most resulting in damaged signage) and gates being left open. Unfortunately, there continues to be instances of vandalism including tagging of signage with spray paint and cutting of locks and chains on locked gates. Remember that the Common is a precious resource for the whole of the Gundaroo community and we all have a role in caring for it.

New Board in 2027

The Common is managed by the Gundaroo Common Trust on behalf of enrolled commoners and the wider Gundaroo community. The Trust Board has up to seven members elected for three-year terms by commoners. The current Trustees terms finish in March 2027. The Trust is keen to bring new members onto the Board. To stand for election, you need to be 18+ years and have been enrolled for six months. If you are interested in how the Board works or in becoming a Trustee, you are welcome to attend Board meetings as a way of familiarising yourself with our operations.

For more information or to become a commoner or learn more about the Trust, contact gundaroocommon@gundaroo.org or Helen Willett (Trust President) on 02 6236 8129 / 0428 268 726.

We want to know what plants and animals you find on the Common! Please submit your observations using iNaturalist (https://www.inaturalist.org/).

Gundaroo Film Society

Saturday 21 November 2026, Soldiers Memorial Hall

Optional Two-course Dinner as a Fundraiser for the Gundaroo Hall

First Course— 2 choices:

1: Japanese style rice bowl with oven-baked karaage chicken and edamame smashed cucumber salad **OR**

2:Vegetarian Japanese style rice bowl with miso eggplant and edamame smashed cucumber salad.

Dessert: Hjónabandssaela, Icelandic Happy Marriage Cake, with an Aussie twist of Davidson plum and macadamia .

$45 a head. Bookings essential to Colin Lee: info@gundaroohall.org.au **before Wednesday 17th Nov.**

It will be a great way to support the Hall while indulging in a delectable culinary experience.

Touch

The film is based around an Icelandic man and his relationship with a Japanese woman. There is an Australian twist at the end.

Period drama, Romance

(2hr1m)



Screens at 7.30pm

Doors open at 6.00pm; Dinner served at 6.30pm

BYO drinks including glasses

Due to our copyright obligations we have rigorous membership and attendance rules.

Members or guests of members must be 18 years or over to attend.

www.gundaroofilms.org info@gundaroofilms.org Gundaroo Films

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Michael Godding Classical Training Clinic

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Bookings:

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More exciting clinics coming in the new year so watch this space!!

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M: 0422 244 433 Sutton NSW E: sheronypark@bigpond.com

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Gundaroo Rural Fire Brigade

Bush Fire Danger Period: 1st October through till 31st March.
We have now entered the Statutory Bush Fire Danger Period. This means that you will need a Fire Permit to light a fire in the open.

We need AT LEAST a week's notice if you need a fire permit

Once your application is submitted via NSW RFS Guardian Portal, it takes time to be assigned to the Gundaroo Rural Fire Brigade. Our Captain then assigns it to a Permit Officer. Permit Officers then need to organise an inspection with you to assess your proposed fire.

Inspections are mandatory, all of our Permit Officers are volunteers, and they have to fit in these inspections around their own busy lives at this crazy time of year.

So please submit your permit application early and we'll contact you as soon as we can!

Gundaroo Brigade supports the 2026 Murrumbateman Field Days



Yet again, the volunteers of the Gundaroo Brigade have shown their commitment to the NSW RFS, joining 10 other local brigades to support the MFD and raise funds for their brigades. 25 volunteers from Gundaroo joined 7 brigades in Al's Kitchen, a total of 150+ volunteers over the 2 days cooking, serving cleaning and smiling through a few thousand burgers and chips, chicken wings and nuggets.

A big shout out to the Gundaroo volunteers – we provide a huge amount of volunteer hours to this event every year, and are always professional, efficient and easy to work with!

MURRUMBATEMAN FIELD DAYS
An event by the Murrumbateman Community Association

💰 **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. You can donate at our pub raffles, in the firefighter's hat at the shop or pub or by emailing gundaroorfs@gmail.com for our bank details.

🔥 **Burn Notifications & Fire Permits & Burn Notifications**
You can find information on when you need a fire permit in the NSW RFS Guardian Portal. This includes information on who you need to notify of your fire/burn and how.

🌐 **Online:** https://nswrfsprod.service-now.com/guardian_csp?id=guardian_index
📞 **Yass Fire Control: (02) 6226 3100** (Mon-Fri, business hours).

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

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Boorowa Touch Football and Netball Carnival



Our students enjoyed the opportunity to represent Gundaroo Public School at the Boorowa Touch Football and Netball Carnival. It was a great day of teamwork, sportsmanship and friendly competition, with students demonstrating resilience, encouragement and school spirit.

Stage 3 Excursion

Our Stage 3 students enjoyed an educational excursion to Australian Parliament House and Old Parliament House in Canberra. Students learnt about Australia's system of government, the role of Parliament and how decisions are made in our democracy. It was a valuable opportunity to connect their classroom learning with real-world experiences and to deepen their understanding of part of Australia's history and government.



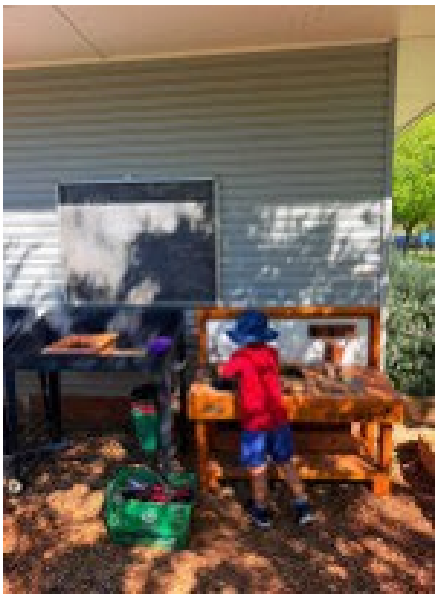


Sustainability

Students have been exploring sustainability through gardening and learning about how different plants and food are grown. They have been discussing seasonal produce, weather patterns and natural cycles, developing an understanding of how our environment supports plant growth and food production. These hands-on experiences encourage students to care for our environment and make connections between nature, food and sustainability.







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Matt Williams

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Annual Showcase

Congratulations to all of the students and staff who participated in Bungendore High School's annual Showcase evening. This year's Showcase saw a sensational selection of dance and musical items along with a stunning display of student artworks. Our masters of ceremony added humour and gravitas according to the context and our sound and lighting crew added a professional edge to the evening. We look forward to Showcase 2027 in our incredible new premises.







CALL FOR TENDERS – SCHOOL CANTEEN LICENCE

Bungendore High School Canteen Licence

Tenders are called for the licence of the school canteen for the school year commencing on 3 February 2027 for a term of 3 years with an option to renew for 2 years. Annual school enrolments will be approximately 260 for 2027 with yearly increases.

General enquiries and requests for a Tender Information Package should be referred to:

Melissa Giddins, Principal

0460 043 547

Bungendore-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Tenders must be sent electronically and noted in the subject line "Commercial in Confidence - School Canteen Tender" and sent to:
Melissa Giddins
Bungendore-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Tenders close at 3pm on 8 November 2026
Mandatory Criteria: all employees must hold a current working with children check.



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Spring planting

By Lisa Walmsley

I'm often asked if spring is the perfect time to plant your garden: nurseries are full, the weather has improved, soil is warming up and people and plants are coming out of hibernation. However, spring weather is seriously unpredictable.

Today the weather is blowing a gale, it's 26 degrees and there's the promise of a storm. Last week was cool and rainy with the odd day close to being frosty. For new plants these sudden differences in temperatures can be very difficult. Their roots won't be established enough to reach the moisture deeper in the soil, making them vulnerable just when they begin to grow.

Taking young plants from pot to garden is a massive readjustment - new soil, light and wind conditions, that are often different from a nursery. If the surface dries out quickly, roots lose access to moisture. Heat causes plants to lose moisture through their leaves leading to it wilting during the day. And repeated stress can slow its growth, damage the leaves or in severe cases kill it.

Good preparation can reduce the risk. Before planting, check the forecast. Avoid putting delicate plants into the ground just before a stretch of hot, dry weather. Water the plants in their pots before transplanting and water the planting area so the surrounding soil is moist. Set each plant at the same depth it was growing before and firm the soil gently around its roots. Water thoroughly after planting to settle the soil and remove air pockets. Planting on a cloudy day or in the cooler evening can also limit immediate water loss.

After planting consistent moisture matters more than frequent light sprinkling. Check the soil with a finger: if it feels dry a few centimetres below the surface, water slowly at the base of the plant. A layer of mulch helps keep soil cool and reduce evaporation, but leave a little space around each stem to prevent it from staying damp. During a hot spell, use a temporary shade cloth or simple screen to protect seedlings from intense afternoon sun.

Keep an eye on young plants. Brief midday drooping doesn't mean they're dying. Check again in the evening and feel the soil before adding more water. Constantly soggy soil can harm roots. Remove badly damaged leaves but avoid heavy pruning or fertilising while a plant is stressed. If a seedling has been hit hard by heat, provide shade and steady moisture, then give it time to recover.

Spring planting can be rewarding. Choosing suitable plants, watering carefully and responding early to dry conditions give young roots a better chance to establish. A little attention during their first few weeks can make the difference between a plant that struggles to one that grows well.

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Spring gathering of Gundaroo businesses

The second Gundaroo Local Business Connections Gathering was held on a gorgeous spring afternoon in October with attendees noting that the free event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with other local businesses in person and support for opportunities to promote the wide range of quality Gundaroo products, services, venues and events.

Hosts Rachael Hogan of Daphne & May and Liz Landford of EL Voice and Audio were joined by a diverse range of local business owners including familiar faces from the first gathering and many welcome new ones.

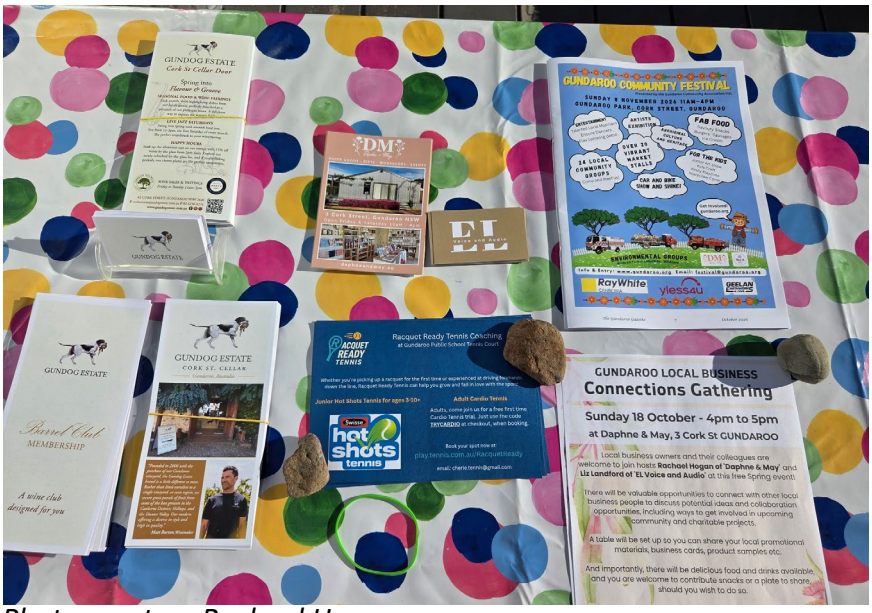


Photo courtesy Rachael Hogan

Business pamphlets, cards and promotional materials for upcoming local events were shared and further networks were made. The room filled with laughter and conversations about future business and community collaboration plans and ideas.

Rachael and Liz are keen to host another Local Business Connections Gathering in summer, possibly one Sunday in February 2027. You can contact them at rachael@daphneandmay.au and elvoiceandaudio@gmail.com with preferences for the time and date of the next event or to contact some of our great local businesses.

Historical Society 2027 calendar


One of the photos in the Historical Society's 2027 calender shows a load of wheat from 'Everton' on the Murrumbateman Road ready to leave the farm. Photo credit: Letty Hallam (Lees).
To purchase the calendar, email historicalsocietygundaroo@gmail.com.

1st Gundaroo Scouts: caves, camps and a call for help

Our Scouts wrapped up a big term with an unforgettable camp at Wee Jasper. The weather was perfect and the campsite was a beauty. The group explored the Jasper caves, then headed off the beaten track on a long bushwalk with sweeping valley views. Plenty of tired legs and big smiles by the end.

We finished the term with a BBQ and campfire cooking night, a fun way to celebrate everything the kids achieved.

Term 4 is shaping up to be a great one. We're planning plenty of time outdoors, including exploring around the village, water fights, fishing and more.







We need your help

To keep Scouts going in Gundaroo, we're looking for two new leaders and need to fill all committee positions: Chair, Treasurer, Communications, Fundraising, and Facilities & Equipment. There are also optional roles like Patron, Volunteer Coordinator, Recruitment and Community Engagement.

Without these roles filled, the group will go into recess from Term 1 2027 until they can be filled. You don't need to be a Scouting expert, just keen to help give our kids the adventure, skills and friendships they'll carry for life.

Interested, or want to know more? Get in touch with the 1st Gundaroo Scout Group.

Be the reason Scouting continues!



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GUNDAROO PHARMACY News

Staying well into summer

As November brings warmer afternoons the Gundaroo Pharmacy team wants to ensure our community stays healthy, hydrated, and active ahead of the busy festive season. Taking a few moments to prioritize your health now can make a world of difference for the months ahead.

Beating the November hayfever surge

Spring may be winding down, but airborne allergens are still highly active. If you're struggling with itchy eyes, sneezing or a persistent cough, don't just push through it. We can help tailor a management plan using the right combination of antihistamines, nasal sprays, or eye drops. For those with asthma, now is also the critical time to review your Asthma Action Plan and ensure your reliever inhalers have not expired before the peak summer heat arrives.

Sun safety and First Aid prep

The UV index rises rapidly this month, catching many of us off guard while working outdoors or gardening. We remind everyone to apply SPF 50+ sunscreen daily, wear broad-brimmed hats, and protect your skin.

It's also the perfect time to check your home, tractor and vehicle first aid kits. Ensure your insect bite treatments, antiseptic creams and bandages are stocked and unexpired. If you need a refresher on snakebite bandage techniques or need to restock your property's safety kits, pop in and ask us.

Your local health hub

You don't always need to travel out of town for vital healthcare. We offer confidential, professional clinical services including:

- Webster packing and medication management help for adults and students;
- National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) access and product support;
- Immunisations, including late-season flu shots and up-to-date travel vaccinations.
- Patients over 75 can access a COVID-19 vaccination free of charge every 6 months. If you had it this year with your flu shot, consider a booster before you start mixing with friends and family over the summer holidays.

We're proud to be your local pharmacy, dedicated to providing personalized care for our community.

Open Monday to Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm. Stop by and see us, call the pharmacy at (02) 6233 3500, or text our mobile line at 0432 626 647.





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Exhibition opening: 'Memories of Other Places'

An exhibition of works by mixed media artist Verity Roberts opens at the Cork Street Café and Gallery on Saturday 14 November 2026 at 4:00pm. Based at Lake George in NSW the artist's body of work focuses on painting abstract landscapes using encaustic and cold wax mediums. The exhibition will be opened by Ms Robyn Boyce, a friend and supporter of Verity's art practice over many years.



My work is loosely influenced by place, landscape & poetry - most recently Neruda's Love Sonnets. Translated from my feelings at the time. I then scratch & dig, layer & reveal, constantly adding & subtracting. The viewer is invited to look closely to be surprised by what has been revealed.

"I want to do with you what spring does with the cherry trees" Pablo Neruda



Verity Roberts
Encaustic & Cold Wax Artist

Please join me at my next exhibition
'MEMORIES OF OTHER PLACES'

OPENING at CORK ST GALLERY & CAFE

24 Cork Street, Gundaroo, NSW on SATURDAY
14 November 2026 4pm - 6pm

Exhibition continues until 20 December 2026
OPEN: Thursday to Sunday 9am - 7pm

Koala Stew – Uncensored

For the fourth running of Koala Stew in October, we asked the audience to write the review by contributing a few words each. Here they are, uncensored, with none omitted.

- Very convivial, creative, theatrical and good fun.
- A lovely, shared community of poetry lovers.
- Magic - made my toes twinkle.
- Wonderful evening – let's do it again!
- Great meeting with song, humour and tears!
- A lovely night. Food for the soul.
- Melancholy, joyful, cogitative, amusing – a night that has it all!
- An emotional roller coaster of an evening!
- Rollicking yarns, love of family, politics and history, highs and lows, the evening had it all. Great evening!
- Lovely literature, deep insights into life, love and humanity.
- A brilliant night, a smorgasbord of delights for the heart, soul and mind.
- Wonderful night. Perhaps local poets like Lee should have the poem published in the Gazette.
- First kiss, state of the world, friendship and politics – it's all covered.
- The enthusiasm evident for each reader asks Nick "only one poem?" What a wonderful way to be welcomed into the community! Thank you for a creative, generous evening.
- Another great evening of exposure for us all to both home grown and imported creativity.
- In a world of social media and horror news, it has been wonderful to reconnect with the higher calling of poetry to calm and raise the mind.
- Poetry night brings out the unexpected – from unexpected fellas. Depths of thinking obscured by facades of certainty.
- I have a folder of poetry an old friend of mine wrote and I haven't known what to do with it. Now I know, I'll give it life at Koala Stew.

Watch out for the fifth helping of Stew coming next autumn, you really should try some.

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Are you storm ready?

If you've been following our storm ready series over the last 6 months, hopefully you've already done a lot of these actions. If not, below is a great recap! Cut it out and save it, pin it to the fridge, or pass it on to a neighbour. Now that storm season has commenced, it is a good time to quickly re-check the items on this list. It's likely your gutters need clearing again. Did you steal a can of food from your emergency kit? Don't forget to make sure your emergency plan is still appropriate. And the final step in our series: make sure you know what to do when a storm happens.

What to do when a storm happens?

Stay indoors and away from windows. Steer clear of creeks, storm drains and fallen powerlines. Don't drive through floodwater. If you need to go outside after the storm, take care and be cautious of hazards that you can't immediately see.

NSW SES may not be able to reach you immediately and you may need to rely on yourself, your family or your neighbours for a period of time. That's exactly why preparation matters. After a storm, if it's safe to do so, check on your neighbours, particularly anyone elderly or living alone. If you need help during or after a storm, call NSW SES on 132 500. For anything life-threatening, always call 000.



NSW SES Sutton Unit trains every Monday night at 7:00 pm, 19 Victoria St Sutton.
For help in storms and floods, call 132 500. Call 000 for emergencies.

Working Bee
24 October 2026



On Saturday 24 October eight people met at the Sutton Village Reserve for a short working bee. There were some more trees to plant from our big planting last autumn. We also wanted to see how those little trees were going. Most of the little wattles and others are still alive. They did not grow much over winter, but we are hoping that will change this spring, especially with a bit of rain.

We tidied up where the tree guards had disappeared (kangaroos always take shortcuts across plantings) and added extra mulch where needed. Another 40 trees were planted where earlier plants had gone. After one and a half hours we called it a day, with some shared treats from the Sutton Bakery.

Next projects

Other news for the Village Reserve: we have funding for a fence around the part of the Reserve behind the school, adjacent to Guise Street. There will be several gates, so the Reserve will not be closed off!

We also have funding for the spraying of the St John's Wort. This will be done by a specialised professional as this needs to be done in an environmentally sensitive way so other species don't get damaged.

YVC collaborating with Crown Lands will organise another round of combatting serrated tussock (later this year, or early next year) and the recurring blackberries.

We are also coordinating a concerted rabbit control program with YVC, Crown Lands, Local Land Services and the Sutton Public School over the summer holidays.

Landcare Secretary needed

We are inviting anyone interested in becoming the Sutton Landcare Secretary - it is not a lot of work but provides a nice focus on improving our own environment. Please contact us via Sutton.Landcare@gmail.com for any of the above.

Arnold Dekker
Coordinator, Sutton Landcare

Spring wildflowers in the Gundaroo region







Photo credit: Gundaroo Gazette

Gundaroo Getaway program replay coming

The Getaway segment shot in Gundaroo in June 2025 will be rescreened this coming December 3 as part of the program's summer series.

The program is Channel Nine's longest-running travel and lifestyle program.

Presenter Sam McClymont and crew (Producer Sarah Bowers, camera Steve Davis and sound Aaron Quirk) spent a full day checking out some of Gundaroo's attractions and interviewing a number of locals.

Sights visited included the Gundaroo Inn (now the Gundaroo Pub), Gundog, Grazing, Cork St Cafe, Sally Paskins Store and Old St Luke's Studio with a special visit to Bushfield Camels.

Note: Bushfield Camels will be at the Gundaroo Community Festival on Sunday 8 November.



Interviewing potter Ian Jones at Old St Luke's' Studio



Sam McClymont interviews Matt Richards from Gundaroo Cellar Door



Getaway at Bushfield Camels: (L to R) Aaron Quirk sound, Steve Davis camera, Jim and Kylie Finn from Bushfield Camels and (background) Finn, Dauth, Ulrick and Groves children riding the camels. Bushfield Camels will be at the Gundaroo Community Festival on Sunday 8 November.

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A bustling spring season with Wildcare!

Spring arrived early this year, meaning an early breeding season for many of our precious native birds. This is a critical time for our native birdlife as they raise their young and understanding them can make a big difference.

Finding a baby bird on the ground is a common occurrence during spring - but leaving them there could do more damage than good. In many cases the bird may have injuries or be too young to be out of the nest. Even when parents are feeding a baby on the ground, in the evening they will fly off to roost leaving the baby vulnerable to predators and weather. If the bird is very young with only sparse feathers, and you are certain it is not injured, you may be able to place it gently back in the nest if you can safely reach it. Please do not handle birds that are exhibiting signs of H5N1 avian influenza. If you need assistance or advice with a bird, please call out 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966.

Wildcare continues to rescue native birds and is liaising closely with the relevant government departments to ensure the correct protocols are followed as we monitor the development of H5N1 avian influenza.



A rosella chick was found by a concerned local and came into care. Wildcare volunteers rescue and care for more than 1,100 birds each year

Upcoming Events

All our events, including registration, can be found on our website at Wildcare.com.au.

Snake Rescue Course

14-15 November - Murrumbateman Recreational Grounds

28-29 November, 12-13 December – Burra Community Hall

Monitor Rescue and Rehabilitation

21 November - Queanbeyan Girl Guide Hall

Euthanasia-by-Firearm

28 November – Jerrabomberra Community Hall

2027 Wildcare calendar

Our much-loved Wildcare calendar returns for another year. The calendar includes 12 full size images of animals a Wildcare volunteer has rescued or rehabilitated. If you are a local business or would like to help distribute them this year, please get in touch at calendars@wildcare.com.au.

As a registered charity, every donation made to Wildcare goes directly toward helping native animals in need. Whether you choose to make a one-off contribution or set up a recurring monthly donation, every dollar helps keep our volunteers equipped and gives sick, injured and orphaned native animals a fighting chance. All donations to Wildcare are tax-deductible. Head to wildcare.com.au/donate for more information.

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Senior Goats

The Senior Goats had a mixed start to the season at home with a loss against the Yass GC Cobras and a well-earned victory against last year's Triggs Shield premiers, the Hall Monitors.

Round 1 - Yass GC Cobras @ Gundaroo park: The Cobras sent the Goats into bat and capitalised on a classic Gundaroo collapse, bowling our boys out for 95 runs. Unable to achieve three figures, the Goats had their work cut out for them in the field. The Goats bagged 5 wickets before Yass was able to chase the score in 16 overs.

Round 2 - Hall Monitors @ Gundaroo park: After a rare win of the toss for Captain Jack Riley, the Goats batted first again. Well aware of the previous week's collapse, the Goats let it happen again. Thanks to Dave Jean's 'run-a-ball' 81, the Goats scraped out a final score of 151. This time the Goats' fielding effort was able to strangle Hall for 101, with an outstanding 5 for 12 from new recruit Mick Burke.

You can follow Senior Goats on Facebook @ Gundaroocricketclub.



The Senior Goats - mid pitch deliberations

U11s

The U11s also had a mixed start to the season, recording a promising Round 1 win against Wests Maroon before suffering a hard-fought loss to a very well-drilled Wests White.

This year, the Goats have welcomed Ben, Hugh, Olly and Izzy to the team, and each of them has performed exceptionally well in their first season of "real" cricket. Ben and Hugh have both kept wicket to a very high standard, while also contributing strongly with the bat.

Izzy made an immediate impact, taking a wicket in her very first over for the Goats by clean bowling one of Wests' best batters. Olly was awarded the Neat Street Coffee Player of the Match in his debut game for an impressive batting performance against some of the bigger and faster bowlers from Wests White, who simply could not get him out. Congratulations to our four new recruits on an outstanding start to the season.



The Junior Goats - 'Neat St Player of the Match', Archie Leeson

A special mention also goes to our star bowler, Archie Leeson, who claimed four wickets against Wests Maroon and deservedly earned the Player of the Match award.

Finally, a note from the coach: all of our Junior Goats have made remarkable improvements to their skills over the off-season. The hard work put in by every player is already showing on the field, and the team is shaping up to be highly competitive throughout the season ahead.

U13s

The U13 team has joined the Yass competition in a combined setup. They played their first game and came away with the win with Russell, Tom and Darcy dominating with the bat with Yani spinning up a storm with the ball.

We would still welcome boys and girls between 10 and 13 who want to make friends and have a great time. Our games rotate between Gundaroo, Murrumbateman and Yass each Saturday morning.



The Junior Goats - assembled for their round 1 clash against Wests Maroons

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23 Cork Street

0401 118 793 ***www.gundarooinn.com.au***

The 'village pub' and family restaurant.
Family-friendly atmosphere.

Dine-in and takeaway

Open Wednesday to Sunday

Wednesday: 3pm to 10pm
Thursday–Sunday: 12pm to 10pm

Gundaroo Grocer, Cork St Cellars & Takeaway

54 Cork Street
02 6236 8141

Coffee available, No takeaway at present

Open Monday to Saturday

Neat Street Coffee

7 Faithfull Street

Delicious coffee and easy eats.

Open everyday

Monday - Friday: 6am to 2pm
Saturday to Sunday: 8am to 1pm

Community Facebook Pages
Gundaroo Community Connect
Gundaroo Community Noticeboard
Gundaroo Kyeema Neighbourhood Group
Gundaroo Buy, Swap and Sell

Community Website **www.gundaroo.org**

Gundog Estate Cork Street Cellar Door

Located behind Grazing in the old stables

6236 8276 ***www.gundogestate.com.au***

corkstreet@gundogestate.com.au

Open Friday to Sunday 11am to 5pm

For wine tasting, lunch and sales. Bookings can be made via phone, email or website.

Church Worship in Gundaroo

Catholic

St Joseph's Church

(Cnr Harp and Morning Streets)

Mass: *10.30am on the second and fourth Sundays*

Communion Services: *9:30 am every other Sunday until further notice*

Contact: *Kath Campbell - kathryncampbell04@gmail.com*

Anglican

St Marks Church

(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

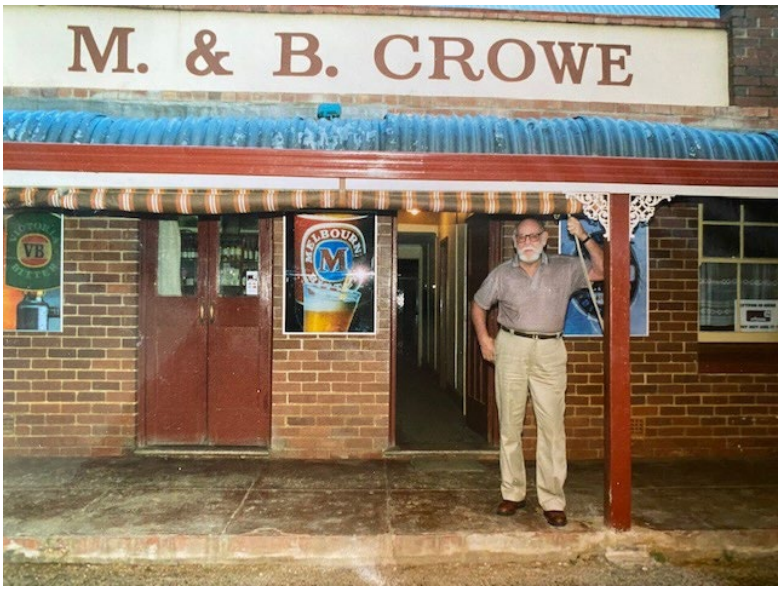
(Cnr Lot and Cork Streets))

Services on the first and third Sunday of the month.

Services start at 9am and finish with morning tea.

Contact: *John Donley - 0431 750 241*

A bit of Gundaroo History



Matt Crowe's Wine Bar late 1990s. Photo credit: G&DHS

The Gundaroo Gazette

Editorial Team: GCA Community Website Sub Committee
Graphic Design: Tender Edge and 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 before the 21st of the month are 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. 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	Telephone
Gundaroo Pharmacy Monday-Friday 9-5pm	6233 3500 or attend 56 Cork St (at The Nest)
Emily Wallis	0404 215 531
Beth Kominek	0401 270 100
Kate Dardis	0499 299 750
Tricia Voigt	0466 547 084

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 bfrfs@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 (Rachael Hogan) 0407 276 075 (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@gundaroohall.org.au
Gundaroo Park Land Manager	0422 649 141 gundaroopark@gundaroo.org
Gundaroo Common Trust	6236 8129 or 0428 628 726(Helen Willett)
Police Paddock	0418 496 908 (Sue Burns)
Gundaroo Village Memorials	0413 137 761 (Phil Gaden)
Gundaroo Public School	6236 8115 (Brysson Leeson)
Gundaroo Outside of School Hours (OOSH)	0427 410 537 www.ccel.com.au
1st Gundaroo Scout Group (Joeys to Rovers)	0415 677 943 (Cath Woodward) cath.woodward@nsw.scouts.com.au
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 Cricket Club **The Goats**	gundaroo.senior.cricket@gmail.com (Seniors) Sean Egan gundaroo.junior.cricket@gmail.com (Juniors) Chris Gaggin
Gundaroo Men's Shed	0407 603 003 (Don de Vries) secretary@gundarooshed.org.au
Gundaroo churches	See previous page for services & contacts.
Civil Marriage Celebrant	0401 267 851 (Lorraine Bird) enquiries@lorrainebird.com.au