

Googonian Gazette

THE GOOGONG COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 16 - DECEMBER 2018

BOOGONG! A CREEPY CARNIVAL



BOOGONG 2018 See pages 4 and 5 for all the gorey fun!



A message from Malcolm

GOOGONG'S PROJECT DIRECTOR

It's time again for my update on how development at Googong – and the news is all good! Let's take a look at where everything is at.

- **Neighbourhood 2 (Stages 1 and 2)** is progressing well with Stage 1 due to be complete before Christmas and Stage 2 early in the New Year. While the contractor is following plans of management for dust control, some of the recent hot and windy days have proved challenging. With completion of these stages and stabilisation of the topsoil with grass, we hope conditions will improve.
- There are now around 1,150 homes now occupied and a further 220 are under construction. We're growing bigger every day!
- **Works to upgrade the intersection of Old Cooma Road and Googong Road** are close to being approved – they should be underway late this year or early next.
- **Upgrades to double the capacity of the new water recycling plant** have been commissioned and the plant is now being operated by Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC). Before any non-potable (recycled) water is supplied to homes, QPRC is undertaking a final testing and inspection program. The testing will focus on homes in Stages 1 and 2

of Neighbourhood 1, where pipework was installed before a colour-coded system was introduced to eliminate the risk of cross-over between potable and grey water supplies. Until the commissioning process (which includes this testing) is completed, all homes in Googong will continue to receive potable water to both metres. QPRC will host a community information session for residents in advance of the final switch over.

- **Structure Planning of Neighbourhoods 3, 4 and 5 (Googong West, South and East) has commenced.** We'll be submitting plans to QPRC around April next year. QPRC's approval process will include public notification and consideration of comments from the community.
- **Designs for the first stage of Googong Common's sporting precinct are largely complete.** It's an exciting first step in the development of our town's major sporting and recreation precinct, where we'll see:
 - Googong's next sports field
 - Indoor Sports Centre
 - Six outdoor netball courts
 - A temporary bike pump track
 - Boardwalks across Montgomery Creek linking the sports precinct with the existing path system within the Common, and
 - BBQ and amenity facilities.
- **Landscape design is almost complete on the main entry and lake feature within Googong Central.** This will establish a central, urban focus for Googonians and showcases some exciting urban landscape elements.
- **Environmental initiatives** continue to attract the support of our residents. We've seen the establishment of a Googong Landscape group, and residents have enjoyed tours of the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Conservation Area with Capital Ecology. Googong Landcare have already had two planting events since early spring, and we encourage you to consider joining their activities if and when you can (contact community@googong.net or watch out for the next event on the Googong Township Facebook page). The Pink-tailed Worm-lizard tour and BBQ was another enjoyable day that reinforced how important the environment in and around Googong is. We even found four endangered Pink-tailed Worm-lizard hiding under their rock homes. More tours and involvement in education days are planned so keep an eye out for the next one on our Facebook page.



GOOGONG LANDOWNERS

FIVE & FIVE LAND OFFER

**\$5k rebate and a 5% deposit for your next
Googonian land purchase.***

If you already own your own slice of Googong, then here's a deal worth some serious consideration!

Right now, current Googong landowners will get a big \$5,000 rebate and a tiny 5% deposit on a new block of land at Googong.

Whether you're looking to upgrade to a bigger block, or you're considering investing in a second property, this is a deal you just can't go past.

For more information visit the Googong Sales and Information Centre or call 1300 446 646 – it's for a limited time only!



A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN PEET AND MIRVAC

GOOGONIAN AGAIN INITIATIVE

*Googonians who have purchased land from GTPL or a member of the Googong Builders Guild, Googong Partner Builders or Terrace Home Builders may apply for this offer. The 'Five & Five' offer applies to land purchased from GTPL. It does not apply to terrace purchases.



**HERE BE
MONSTERS!**



BOOGONG!

A CREEPY CARNIVAL

Zombie-infested streets? Vampires and werewolves eating sausage sizzles? No, it wasn't the Googonian apocalypse. It was the return of Googong's much-loved-and-equally-feared, fake-blood drenched, gruesome gathering: Boogong!

Over 15,000 people – many of them dressed to scare – enjoyed this year's event in Googong. This time around, we held a best dressed competition, with prize giveaways for best boy and girl, best individual, best group and best family. And yes, the winners are still giving us nightmares!

Special thanks to our prize sponsors, Achieve Homes, DJ Homes (two of our Googong Display Village builders), Questacon, Domino's Pizza Googong, and Club Lime.



NEW TO THE GOOGONG NORTH VILLAGE CENTRE

WANT TO MEET THE NEWEST SHOPS ON THE BLOCK AT GOOGONG NORTH VILLAGE CENTRE?

The opening of **Liquor and Co.** in September and **Cannons IGA** in early October have started the ball rolling in a big way for the Googong North Village Centre.

Liquor & Co have a great selection of handcrafted local spirits from Canberra Distillery, as well as local beers from Capital Brewery, PACT Beer and Co. and Bentspoke (which go down well with their locally produced organic beef snacks from Barbell Biltong).

Not to be outdone in supporting local business, Cannons IGA have daily deliveries of DOM's Italian bread and Three Mills Bakery; in-house butchers prepare the finest locally sourced meats; the deli cooks fresh, hot and ready-to-take-home meals; and the café staff are trained by – and brew with beans from – Canberra's famous Lonsdale Street Roasters.

The store's cheese selections come from farther afield including varieties from around the country and specialty imports from France. The IGA coffee window opens from 6am and stocks almond, lactose-free and coconut milk from Milk Lab, along with the usual dairy selections. And try a mouth-watering Nutella Bombolini with your large full-cream latte before heading off to work – it's worth every deliciously unnecessary calorie!

Domino's are doing a roaring trade with residents and builders alike and each week you'll find new vouchers and special offers online.

These past weeks have seen **Fika** (a Swedish concept meaning to relax and enjoy coffee with friends) open for breakfast and lunch. Owners Jon and Kate (a local Googonian) aim to deliver delicious food and coffee (from Canberra's Red Brick Espresso), with a customer experience that you want to tell your friends about.

And they really have catered for everyone, there is a kids corner plus treats for your four legged friends. Find out more on their website ourfika.com or just pop in.

Brush and Blush hair and beauty salon spend Tuesday to Saturday each week busily beautifying residents with gorgeous, on-trend cuts for men, women and children. Talented make-up artist, Hayley Jordan, is on hand to get you looking your best for the Christmas party season. They have great gift ideas and vouchers too for Christmas.

Club Lime Googong is opening soon and has been waiting on the transfer of title, which is now being finalised. Foundation Memberships are available for \$13 per week and they'll waive the access pass fee (usually \$59) if you join with a friend within 59 hours of each other. Alternatively, you can score a discounted access pass fee for \$29 just by using the code "nosecondperson" – that's a saving of \$30. This Foundation Member offer is only available for the first 100 members – and they're almost all sold out, so don't delay! You can find out more from info@clublime.com.au

The Community Centre will be opening soon. How soon? Soon enough that the centre is available for bookings! To book for your event, contact Mandy Tomlinson at QPRC on **6285 6583**.



LITTLE MAKERS

creating with purpose

Over the last few weeks, the playground at The Anglican School Googong has been an orchestra of banging and clattering, as months of hard-work from our Year Three and Year Four students has come to fruition with the construction of their carefully crafted designs.

Exploration of the design cycle started in Term Three when students noticed that less people were bringing library bags to return and borrow books. Opportunity! The students and teachers decided that if they sewed Library bags, this would ensure that everyone could participate in Library time. Out came the sewing machines and needles and threads, and together with a wonderful team of volunteer parents, students learned to hand-stitch a design on the front and French-seam the edges, how to add a drawstring, and putting buttons on (and taking them off during the few unpicking sessions). After all this, the sewing adventures were complete.

This experience inspired our students to look around the school to find other improvements they could make. They charged ahead through the imagine process, dreaming what could be. Through passionate discussion and extensive collaboration, the students completed their plans and found sustainable ways to source their materials.

With a safety briefing complete, the building began. Using a range of tools, equipment and materials (and helped once again by more parent helpers!) designs began to come to alive. Students tackled new situations, embraced using real-life tools and continually evaluated their progress. Vegetables were planted and water pipes set down. Pallets were pulled apart and reshaped into play kitchens, garden sheds, chairs and tables. Old fish tanks became terrariums and rolls of calico became heat packs for first aid.

Throughout the process students were inspired and challenged. They worked their way through frustrating problems and celebrated milestone moments. Among the students there was laughter, discussion

and concentration as they embraced responsibility for creating a unique product. Along the way many things were learned: the value of planning, seeking help, moving out of comfort zones and working hard.

The students are deservedly proud of their efforts and can't wait for other students to begin using their creations!

Mrs Kate Reynolds and Miss Portia Bellew – Teachers

'I liked the wood and metal craft. I have done some of this at home but haven't done it this big. I am excited that when I finish my design I will be able to use it at school.' **Toby**

'I loved doing this project as I think it's unlike any other school, using hammers and being able to build. I was so excited to use an electric sander because I could see the timber going nice and smooth.' **Jameson**

'I enjoyed having access to tools that I didn't normally have. I was excited to use something different. I have learned a lot and been able to keep a plant alive.' **Mariam**

'It has been challenging because it is the biggest thing I have ever done with construction. It was great. I am so proud of what I have created. I am still planning how I do the roof.' **Archie**



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF GOOGONG DAM



We're very lucky here in the township to have Googong Dam just down the road, as it's a source of endless fun for you and your family. In this pristine natural setting, you can enjoy BBQs, hike or bike along the many nature trails, go fishing or just head out on the water in your sailing boat, canoe, kayak or electric-powered boat.

There's also an interesting historical perspective, with the Ngunnawal people having lived in the area for thousands of years. And being a wildlife refuge, you'll see plenty of wildlife – especially birds, with over 165 species living near the dam.

But it's important to remember – Googong Dam is a water catchment area. By playing your part and following these rules when you visit the dam, you'll be helping to preserve this beautiful place, and at the same time protecting your right to access the dam for the foreseeable future.

- **Swimming is only permitted in the Queanbeyan River below dam wall. You can't swim in the dam itself.**
- **Take your rubbish home – there are no bins at Googong Dam.**
- **Googong Dam is a wildlife refuge – all native plants and animals and their habitats are protected.**
- **Pets are not permitted. No dogs or horses.**
- **Camping is not permitted.**

Recreation at Googong Foreshores

		Bike riding			No dogs
		Picnicking			No swimming
		Bushwalking			No petrol powered boats
		Fishing			No wading
		Kayaking, sail boating	Protect your drinking water.		



Great Googonians come to wombats' rescue



Mange is a parasitic skin condition that many native wildlife suffer from, which is spread predominantly by foxes. A population of sick wombats have been discovered in the Googong Southern Reserve near the Tin Hut that are affected by this parasite, and founder of Wombat Rescue, Yolandi Vermaak, has leapt to their aid.

Yolandi secured permission from a host of stakeholders to be able to start a treatment program at this site; and then set about creating burrow flaps (from anything she could find including ice-cream lids and peanut butter lids) that would administer medication to the wombats as they entered or exited their burrow by wiping it onto their backs. Treatment in the Southern Reserve commenced in September 2018 and will most likely continue well into 2019.

The success of mange treatment is subject to a number of factors, including wombats moving to other burrows, foxes re-infesting burrows, and drought which can add additional stress to wombats, and importantly, volunteers.

A dedicated group of Googonians have put their hand up to assist and meet every Sunday morning at 8am to service the burrow flaps and document the usage of medicine dispensed during the week.

It became apparent from the early days that the mange outbreak in this wombat population was larger than anticipated, and more burrow flaps – and more medicine – were required.

The financial outlay of this medicine, Cydectin, is significant. Googonians have once again come to the party, along with supporting networks across the country, to provide this additional financial aid.



During the warmer months wombats are less active during daylight hours (as they do not sweat to regulate their body temperature and so stay underground instead), and fewer of them are spotted during the times when treatment is in progress. The few who are spotted seem to be improving, and we are hopeful that during the cooler months of next year we can take extensive photos of this wombat population and be able to compare them with those taken at the start of the project.

If you want to become involved in this important program, either as volunteer or assist financially with the medicine, we would love to hear from you. Please head to the Wombat Rescue Facebook page, [@RescueWombats](#) or contact our community manager, Samantha Remmers at enquiries@googong.net

BE SSSNAKE SSSMART

With the warmer weather comes increased likelihood of encountering a snake. If you do spot a snake, here are some things to remember:

- **Never try to catch the snake yourself. All snakes in the region are venomous.**
 - **If a snake is passing through your property, keep children and pets indoors until it moves on. Let your neighbours know if it's heading in their direction.**
 - **If you're walking in bushland, wear long pants and closed shoes. If you see a snake, keep your distance, stay calm, and walk away.**
- If you feel the snake poses a threat to yourself or your neighbours, call Wildcare's 24/7 hotline on **6299 1966** or visit www.palerang.nsw.gov.au

Meeting the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard

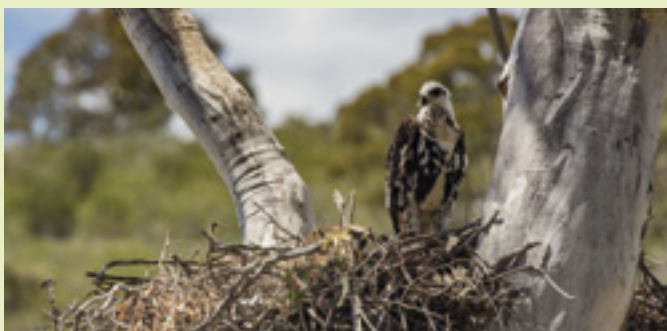


Googong Township in association with Googong Landcare and the Molonglo Catchment Group hosted a guided tour of the conservation area, fenced at the eastern edge of Googong township. Ecologist Rob Speirs and Foreshores rangers guided the walk where guests learnt about the local Wedge-tailed Eagle pair (who now have a bay chick in the nest), and threatened species in the area such as Rosenberg's Monitor, Scarlet Robin, Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail, Brown Treecreeper, and Hoary Sunray.

The Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (also known as *Aprasia parapulchella*) is a vulnerable species with a large population in this part of Googong. They grow up to 25cm in length and look like a small snake crossed with a worm and hide under flat rocks that dominate the steeper parts of this conservation area. Guests were able to hold a few of these Pink-tailed Worm-lizards and hear the work that Googong Township, Googong Landcare and Molonglo Catchment Group are doing to protect this vulnerable species, and understand the importance of protecting the fence line in this part of the township.

If you want to make sure you are aware of our next joint events, be sure to follow Googong Township on Facebook and/or make sure your details are up to date on our residents' database by emailing enquiries@googong.net

More information about threatened species within the conservation area visit <http://googong.net/our-environmental-responsibility/threatened-species.php>





A good egg for Googong

Students from Years 3-7 of The Anglican School Googong recently participated in a mosaicing project below a commissioned artwork piece at the Googong North Village Centre. The piece by Canberra/Queanbeyan artist Neil Dickinson is whimsically titled Googy Egg. It stands over two metres tall with a diameter of 1.2 metres and is made in white concrete.

Dickinson wanted to express how the landscape and the creatures that inhabit it are connected (from great mountain ranges to the smallest of ants); and that even over the passage of time, rebirth in the landscape is constant and necessary. The egg itself symbolises new life and new beginnings, while the creatures and images that wrap around the structure highlight the passage of time and the circle of life. The artwork acknowledges the passage of man: from Indigenous Australians who hunted and gathered from the land and its rivers, to the early pioneering farmers who raised crops and livestock, and more recently to the growth of the township and community of Googong.

This piece was commissioned by Googong Township Pty Ltd, in collaboration with the developers of the Googong North Village Centre, IQon.



RESIDENTS ACCESS TO CLUB GOOGONG POOL AND GYM EXTENDED

Club Googong's indoor pool, outdoor kids splashdeck and gym will be available to Googonian families free of charge until 14/2/19, and any decision regarding fees/and/or extensions to this program will be made closer to the date. We trust that you and your guests will enjoy this facility over the summer months and school holidays in particular.



OUR TOWN FROM THE TOP DOWN

Take a look at the latest NearMaps Satellite image of the Googong township (14/9/18). Can you see your house?

FREE

UPCOMING events

Christmas Carols in the Park



**6-8pm Saturday
15 December 2018
Beltana Park, Beltana
Avenue Googong**

The developers of Googong township would like to extend a warm welcome to one and all to join our annual Christmas Carols.

This is a non-denominational event of just carol singing, with musical support from the big brass sounds of the John Agnew Brass Band and The Sisters and Brothers Community Choir.

The Jerrabomberra Creek Rural Fire Service will be there with their trucks, and Santa will be making an appearance!

This is a free event and song books will be provided. Bring a picnic or buy a treat from the food vendors we will have there on the night.

Merry Christmas to all for the season!



AN EVENING OF FREE LIVE MUSIC AT ROCKLEY OVAL.

**SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2019, 5-9PM**

Just moved in?

If you've recently made the move into your new home at Googong, don't forget to let our Community Manager, Samantha, know so that she can give you your welcome pack and gift.

You can contact her via email to community@googong.net or by calling her on **1300 446 646**. You don't even need to make the trip to Club Googong, she will come to you! You can also drop in to see her in the **Googong Sales and Information Centre from Tuesday – Friday**.



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The Googong Newsletter is distributed quarterly. To ensure you are receiving up-to-date information, please ensure we have your current email address and contact details. Contact your Community Development Executive or email community@googong.net

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GOOGONG

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