

Googonian Gazette

THE GOOGONG COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 31 - MAY 2022



Mother's Day
COCKTAIL PARTY

**GOOGONG
FORESHORES**

MAINTAINING
OUR SANCTUARY

Celebrating
Googonian
neighbours

2022
EVENTS



A message from Malcolm

GOOGONG'S PROJECT DIRECTOR

Demand for land at Googong continues to be strong and construction of roads and services for seven separate stages of subdivision is underway. Completion of these stages over the next 12 months will mark the completion of all residential stages in Googong Central (Neighbourhood 2) with only the Town Centre to come.

The DA for the future neighbourhoods 3, 4 and 5 was submitted to Council in October 2021 and is nearing approval. Approval of the DA is critical to the ongoing supply of land for sale and the growth of Googong.

Planning of the Town Centre is well advanced with preliminary concept plans complete and discussions with key tenants and operators underway. A formal community consultation process is envisaged in the next few months as part of the approval process of a structure plan for the Town Centre.

A contract has been awarded for the upgrade of the integrated water cycle infrastructure. You may have noticed the emerging water supply reservoir at Nangi Pimble as part of this work. Works at the water recycling plant will commence in July. This upgrade will double the capacity of the sewer and water infrastructure, which will then be able to service our entire township.

Cover Image: Mum's and women of Googong enjoyed a Mother's Day cocktail party hosted by Googong, at the Community Centre on 7 May 2022.

Construction of Bunyip Park has ramped back up with the lake side decks and performance stage well underway. Completion is expected in the 3rd quarter of this year.



↑ *Image: The Googong Sales Office and Bunyip Park hard landscaping are well underway.*

Running parallel with Bunyip Park construction is the new permanent sales office. With scaffolding down and glazing expected to follow in the coming weeks, the building is taking pride of place within the landscape at water's edge. We expect the doors to open October 2022.

The latest two sporting fields, sports field 3 and 4, are now complete with attention turning to their establishment over the winter months. Sports field 3 is primarily an AFL field but has been designed to enable a 3 x turf cricket pitch retrofitted in future. Sports field 4 is a dual Rugby League/Union field with a synthetic wicket between the 2 fields. Soft landscaping around both fields is well underway with a view to open both fields in spring. The skatepark is almost complete with the full-sized basketball court, public WiFi, DJ booth, shelter, cricket net facility and kickabout area to follow.

The Rotary Club has raised money to supply Googonians with an exercise loop along Montgomery Creek within the Common. Googong has partnered with the Rotary Club, QPRC and Glascott to have exercise equipment stations installed. The trail will be approximately 1.6km in length and include 6 pieces of exercise equipment. The project is expected to be open for use shortly.

There are now about 2,070 homes occupied in Googong, with the population standing at around 6,100.

Correction: The February 2022 Newsletter misstated that the Lions Club, rather than the Rotary Club, was responsible for raising money toward the Googong Fitness loop. We apologise for this error.

SAVE THE DATE: EVENTS IN 2022



GooGala

Saturday 18 June
7–11pm
GOOGONG
COMMUNITY
CENTRE
Resident-only
cocktail party.*



BOOGONG Halloween at Googong

Saturday 29
October
5–9pm
ROCKLEY OVAL



Defence Families Picnic

Saturday 13 August
2–4pm
BELTANA PARK



Googong Christmas Markets

Saturday 3
December
10am–2pm
BUNYIP PARK,
WELLSVALE DRIVE



KiteFest

Sunday 4
September
11am–2pm
WELLSVALE DRIVE
SPORTSFIELD

Afternoon Christmas Celebrations/ Carols

Saturday 10 December
6–8pm
BUNYIP PARK, WELLSVALE DRIVE



RFS Open Day/ Bunyip Park Opening

Saturday 8
October
10am–2pm
BUNYIP PARK,
WELLSVALE DRIVE



*Be sure you've joined the resident database, so you don't miss out on our special resident-only events.

Email community@googong.net to update your details and be sure to whitelist emails from enquiries@googong.net and community@googong.net so they appear in your inbox.

THE ANGLICAN SCHOOL GOOGONG

Are you ready for Year 7?



For many parents, choosing the right high school for their child can be stressful. It is a time of transition for both parents and children where they need to adapt to a change in place, routine, people, and expectations.

Year 7 is the perfect opportunity for students to explore options and begin their transition to independence. The phrase 'cutting the apron strings' comes to mind, because it's not just students undergoing a change, parents also adapt to a different relationship with their child as they mature.

During Year 7, students start to find their voice, form their own opinions, and want to make their own decisions. At The Anglican School Googong, we provide opportunities in a safe and structured environment where curiosity is valued, the student voice is heard and most importantly, your child is helped with the work of making their future dreams a reality.

It's an age where young people can be quite inward thinking, so we provide, we provide opportunities to reach out and discover a world to explore beyond the classroom. Our aim is to develop students with a global focus, who recognise their common humanity and shared

guardianship of the planet. Enabling our students to perform positive acts of service, be involved in physical activity and participate in co-curricular activities assists in building a healthy approach to life.

The body of a teenager undergoes tremendous change during their senior school years and sensible choices are not always made, and it can be confusing for child and parent alike! When issues come up, we work with students to examine other possible courses of action and ways to solve problems. We're all in this together – parents, staff and students – so be assured our approach at The Anglican School Googong is one of walking alongside our students to help them find a positive pathway.

The Anglican School Googong

If you are interested in securing a place for your child in Year 7 where they can dream, discover and grow, contact us at enrolments@tasg.nsw.edu.au or on **(02) 6154 9400** to learn more.

We look forward to welcoming your family to our community.

ENROL NOW 2023

FINALISING CLASSES FOR 2023

Secure your child's place for
Kindergarten and Year 7

Ask us about our Senior Years intake. It's not too late for your child to join us in Years 10 to 12.



Dream Discover Grow

Co-Ed from ELC to Year 12

Phone 02 6154 9400

www.googongschool.nsw.edu.au



↑ Image from left to right: Candice Cox (GRA President), Kristy McBain MP (Member for Eden-Monaro) and Rebekah Lindsay (Googong Public School Principal).

An update from the **Googong Residents Association (GRA)**

The Googong Residents Association (GRA) recently had the pleasure of having Googong Public School's Principal, Rebekah Lindsay, speak at our Annual General Meeting.

It was fantastic to hear Rebekah's vision for the school and the focus on it becoming the heart of our community that we have dreamt of.

The excavation works are well underway, and enrolments are now open for 2023 on the school's very own website!
googong-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/enrolment.html

There is also a dedicated Facebook page where you can keep up to date with all the latest information:
facebook.com/GoogongPublicSchool

We look forward to continuing to work with Rebekah as the school progresses and to provide further opportunities for our community to engage with her.

The GRA aims to create a sense of unity and inspire community spirit, as well as develop, encourage, and foster community engagement among residents, sporting clubs, facilities, and other social interests.

If you'd like to become a member of the Googong Residents Association, please email **googongra@gmail.com**

Join our Facebook group at **facebook.com/GoogongRA**



ACT PARKS AND CONSERVATION – GOOGONG FORESHORES

Over the winter months, ACT Parks and Conservation undertakes important feral animal control programs within the catchment and the region. These programs are to protect the land from damage and erosion and to ensure native biodiversity.

These programs will target invasive vertebrate pest species, with scientific research and best practice control methods being utilised by professionals in animal management.

There will be some closures or adjustments to closing hours to ensure the safety of the public while we carry out our operations – please adhere to signage and messages from staff on site at all times or visit the ACT Parks website for information on closures.

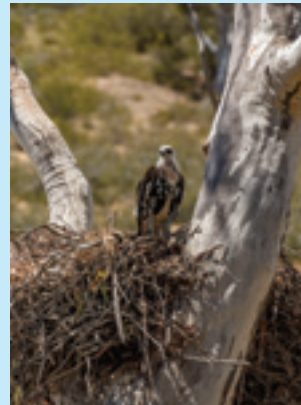
The Downstream Picnic area upgrades are almost complete, following unforeseen delays in supply chains. Many people are enjoying recreating in this revamped area by picnicking, walking and enjoying the river corridor. The Cascades is also looking good with the dam overflow flushing the river downstream of the dam, clean for spring.

Please remember there are rules in place for the safety of yourself and other reserve users, including the following.

- Do not bring dogs or other animals onsite.
- Park in parking areas only – not on the grass.
- Closing times are 5pm South and 6pm North (due to non-daylight savings time).
- Leave the reserve before 6pm to avoid being locked in.
- Pedestrians are not permitted in the reserve after closing time.

GOOGONG FORESHORES: MAINTAINING OUR SANCTUARY

The Googong Foreshores is home to the Googong Dam and Reservoir, supplying a source of drinking water for the ACT and surrounding areas. This catchment also provides sanctuary for wildlife and is a fantastic place to explore the natural environment.



It has a rich cultural history, including significant Aboriginal archaeological sites that were found on the western side of the Foreshores, indicating use of the area for thousands of years. It is important that we continue to protect this catchment, so that we conserve the remarkable characteristics of this area and protect the quality of our drinking water.

You can help to maintain this area and protect the water you drink by following a few simple guidelines:

- Small electrically powered boats are only permitted for use on the reservoir.
- Keep your watercraft clean. Especially if you have come from another water source. This will stop your boat from spreading harmful bacteria and aquatic weeds.
- Please be mindful, when launching your watercraft, minimal body contact with the water is the key. This will reduce harmful pathogens from entering our drinking water.
- Watercraft are not permitted to land on any banks north of the disabled car park (except for the Tin-hut kayak launch area).
- NSW maritime conduct inspections of watercrafts at Googong Foreshores, so please ensure you familiarise yourself with NSW requirements.
- Dogs can harm the natural environment and are not permitted at Googong Foreshores, including the dam.
- Enjoy the area between 8am-5pm as it is a day-use area only.

For more information on how to use the area, please visit parks.act.gov.au/find-a-park/googong-foreshore

*We appreciate your help by
protecting our catchment.*





OUR HOME IS THEIR HOME: CARING FOR THE PINK-TAILED WORM-LIZARD IN GOOGONG

The Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) is a unique but little-known legless lizard that is found in and around Googong. The lizard often lives in the burrows of ants and is small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. Classified as **Vulnerable** in both NSW and the ACT, it has been adversely impacted by land clearing and grazing, as well as predation from feral animals.

Googong Township Pty Ltd (GTPL) has committed to establish, rehabilitate and dedicate to public ownership a 54 hectare fenced Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Conservation Area to protect this species at the eastern edge of the township. Additionally, GTPL has established a \$1m Fund for another 30 hectare Sanctuary on the south-eastern boundary of the township.

Googong is one of the few areas known to provide habitat for the lizards. So, it is really important that everyone helps to look after these lizards in the areas where we live, work and play. By looking

after the Pink tailed Worm-lizard, we are looking after lots of other important and rare species of our region as well.

There are a few simple rules to ensure these unique animals continue to call Googong home:

- Prevent your cat from roaming outside.
- Don't pick up rocks when you are out walking.
- Leave reserve areas intact. Don't dig up plants or disturb the ground.
- Keep you dog on a leash when in areas which might be lizard habitat.
- Control weeds in your garden and on your verge to prevent them spreading to neighbouring bushland.
- Do not go into the fenced conservation areas.

Mother's Day

COCKTAIL PARTY

Our annual Mother's Day cocktail party, held on Saturday the 7th of May, was a huge hit.

Those in attendance were able to relax, unwind, and meet some likeminded women in Googong. Champagne and sweet delights, provided by local dream team, ORA Catering, were perfection and made the night extra special.

It was lovely to see so many new connections made within the community.

Samantha Remmers
COMMUNITY MANAGER





THE BANGKOK BEAN HAS MOVED TO A PERMANENT HOME!

The Bangkok Bean has relocated (from their funky bullet van), to a new and permanent home within the AquaTots Building on Beltana Avenue.

They officially opened their doors on Friday 20 May and are open from 9am - 9pm Wednesday to Sunday. They offer dine-in and takeaway options as well as online ordering and delivery within the township, and are open for coffee, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Pop down for Aussie classics and Pen's famous Thai food, with many new menu items to choose from. For further information, please visit The Bangkok Bean Facebook page.



The Bangkok Bean

5 Star Food
at Street Food Prices

Googong
Family Practice



WELCOME TO NEW TEAM MEMBERS.

Dr Shaikh Wahab has joined our GP team. He is working Wednesday 8am–1pm, Thursday 2pm–7pm and Saturday 8.30am–12 noon.

Bunny Upathumpa, Nurse Practitioner and Diabetes Clinician, is now providing a full range of diabetes services to the clinic including insulin pump therapy. Bunny will be consulting on Fridays.

COVID VACCINATIONS.

We continue to provide COVID vaccinations (initial and booster doses) using the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines.

Pfizer is the recommended vaccine for use as boosters, however AstraZeneca is available for those where Pfizer is not clinically indicated.

Consultations and administration of the vaccine is direct billed to Medicare for those with a valid Medicare or DVA card.

FLU VACCINATIONS.

Flu vaccinations are now available. Consultations and administration of the vaccine is direct billed to Medicare for those with a valid Medicare or DVA card.

New hours: Monday 8am–7pm,
Tuesday 8am–5.30pm, Wednesday 8am–5.30pm,
Thursday 8am–7pm, Friday 8am–7pm,
Saturday 8.30am–12 noon.

COVID PRECAUTIONS.

Please ensure that:

- If you have COVID related symptoms, please obtain a COVID test and isolate until a negative result is received.
- When attending the clinic, masks are still compulsory in the clinic.
- For further information on COVID refer to nsw.gov.au/covid-19

P: 5104 9595

E: reception@googongfp.com.au





Emma Grey hands Harry Price his \$100 Neighbour Day Gift Voucher.

Celebrating *Googonian* neighbours

Community is central to Googong and has been since day one. With thousands of Googonians already calling the township home and more moving in every month, the people are key to making Googong what it is.

This year marked the 20th annual Neighbour Day which is an opportunity to celebrate the respectful relationships and strong communities, tackle loneliness and help communities come together to stay connected. Originally founded as a reminder to connect with elderly neighbours, it has grown to be an annual celebration of strong relationships and communities.

The township marked the occasion by giving Googonian's the chance to nominate their neighbour as an exceptional neighbour. Five sets of Googonians were awarded a \$100 voucher at the Googong Village Centre.

A pair of the winning neighbours, Jackie and Gene Fenton, were nominated by fellow neighbour Catherine Konkoly for their ongoing support, bonding over their families after they moved from New Zealand.

"We quickly connected with Jackie and Gene after they moved in. They were like the Flanders, waving and smiling at us and their grandson played really well with our kids. He even knows where our Nerf gear is kept. But they have become so much more than neighbours – I know I can count on them whenever I need a hand.

They even help me out with things like watching the kids play while I hang a load of washing out," said Catherine Konkoly.

Winning Googonians Harry and Clair Strickland were nominated by next door neighbour Emma Grey, who also photographed the two for their annual clothing-not-required outdoor Christmas portrait.

"Harry and Clair epitomise the spirit of Googong and would do anything to help a fellow Googonian. They are always there for the community whether it is mowing the lawn, serving drinks at the pub, teaching kids to swim or canoeing through Googong in a unicorn onesie, they bring something truly unique to the community. I know I can depend on their friendship which goes beyond immediate neighbours," said Emma Grey.

Googong will be home to an expected 6,500 residents at completion and has placed community at the centre of its plans from day one, with several initiatives designed to foster close connections. This includes hiring a Community Development Manager in addition to hosting regular events, such as KiteFest, Boogong and Googfest which attract thousands of people.

For more information on Googong's community initiatives and events (including resident-only events as well as public events), email Googong's Community Development Manager Samantha Remmers at Samantha.Remmers@googong.net.

FERAL ANIMAL AERIAL CONTROL PROGRAM.

Please be advised that ACT Parks and Conservation will be undertaking an aerial feral animal control program within Googong Foreshores during May and June 2022.

These programs are to protect the land from damage and erosion and to ensure native biodiversity. The target species are hard hooved deer, pigs, goats as well as troublesome foxes and rabbits, with scientific research and best practice control methods being utilised by professionals in animal management.

A helicopter will be used for the operation and we have a 400m buffer from the township and public areas to ensure safety is maintained at all times. There may be some closures or adjustments to opening hours to ensure the safety of the public while we carry out our operations – please adhere to signage and messages from staff on site at all times.

For any further information or inquiries please contact **Nadia Rhodes** on **02 6207 2497**.



ACT
Government



We are very fortunate to have a **Community Manager, Samantha**, whose job is to help foster **community connections for residents**.

She can help to connect you and your family members to like-minded individuals, groups, clubs, and others within the community. Her role also includes running events and activities, supporting local sporting clubs and associations, assisting local businesses to establish themselves in the community, developing education programs to assist our stakeholders regionally, and helping the community come together in virtual ways—like our live streamed Googong Gigs, children's dance and music classes, and organising the Googong Driveway Photos.

If you want to stay on top of what's on, join our residents' database. If you think you may have unsubscribed, changed your email address, or are otherwise not on our residents' database, drop her an email with your details to **community@googong.net** and be sure to whitelist emails from **enquiries@googong.net** and **community@googong.net** so they appear in your main inbox.



GOOGONG SALES OFFICE

Located at 12 Courtney Street,
Googong

Staff are available every day
(except some public holidays)
10am–5pm Saturday to
Wednesday and 10am–4pm
Thursday and Friday.

1300 446 646
enquiries@googong.net



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googong.net

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 Manager or email community@googong.net

While care has been taken to ensure that information contained in this newsletter is true and correct at the time of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information.



GOOGONG

A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN PEET AND MIRVAC