

Googonian Gazette

THE GOOGONG COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 21 - NOVEMBER 2019

A MESSAGE
FROM ALICIA

**'The Reptile
Chick'**

**Be Sssnake
Smart**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Googong
Christmas
Carols**

SUNDAY 15 DEC

**PLUS
MORE!**



A message from Malcolm

GOOGONG'S PROJECT DIRECTOR



The upgrade to the intersection at Cooma Road and Googong Road is finally complete and I'm sure everyone is pleased it is now operational. Thank you for your patience in living with the delays and inconvenience.

Neighbourhood 2 Stages 3 and 4 are under construction and due for completion in January and March 2020 respectively.

DA approval for NH1A Stage 4D and NH1B Stage 9 near Duncan Fields has now been granted and some lots which are already serviced are now for sale. Following suggestions by the community as part of our consultation process, the design includes an additional road connection onto Googong Road from Graziers Road. Construction of these stages is scheduled to commence in the second half of 2020.

Construction within the Googong Common North sports and recreation precinct has commenced. The first stage of development within this precinct will see the establishment of six outdoor netball courts, public toilet block, a temporary bike pump track, boardwalks across Montgomery Creek linking the sports precinct with the existing path system within the Common, BBQ facilities and off-street parking.

Smart Cities deployment is well underway with pit and pipe infrastructure. Smart light poles will be installed along Wellsvale Drive in the coming months. The Courtney Street smart pole continues to collect data and provide free public Wi-Fi – Googong and its smart city partners are continuing

to develop a web-based page where all Googonians can view the data and eventually the smart services that will be deployed within the common. Such services include smart parking, BBQ and bins.

The final stage of the Pink-tailed Worm Lizard Conservation area will be established before the end of the year. The work will involve specific rock being moved from areas slated for development into the conservation area to encourage population growth and areas to inhabit for the species. Once the rocks have been relocated, the southern boundary will be established, and the conservation zone gifted to council. Googong and Molonglo Conservation Group are working away at the co-funded Pink-tailed Worm Lizard Saving our Species conservation initiatives. October/November will see the installation of the perimeter conservation fence and walking trails. Once installed, these trails will be used by Molonglo Conservation Group to provide guided and educational tours.

Revegetation projects involving Molonglo Conservation Group and the Googong Landcare Group are under development. Year-long projects such as bird watch including bird box building are being developed. If you live around The Borough, you will have noticed a couple of dead remnant Eucalypts. Over the coming months, these trees will be pruned back for safety and the remaining branches will be hollowed out to create bird nesting boxes to encourage native birds.

There are now around 1,460 homes occupied with a further 200 under construction.

Christmas Carols in the Park

6pm–8pm, Sunday 15 December
Beltana Park, Googong





GOOGONG GARDEN COMPETITION

Googong Township's expert judging panel will be out on 27 November to review all the homes in Googong to find the top ten front vergeand gardens within the township.

So get out and spruce up your front yard and verge.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE CHOOSE YOUR TOP TEN

Googonians will have the chance to vote for their favourite front garden and verge based on the judges top 10. Voting will commence **28 November** on the Googong facebook page and run till **5pm 12 December**. Winners will be announced on 13 December. You can vote as many times as you like, so get you votes in and support your neighbours!

Winners will receive a Bunnings voucher
1st \$500 | 2nd \$400 | 3rd \$300 | 4th \$200 | 5th \$100

A MESSAGE FROM ALICIA

'The Reptile Chick'

Spring is in the air, baby magpies are begging for food, and reptiles are out basking in the sun. I love this time of year for so many reasons. The rebirth of deciduous plants brings a smile to my face, but it also brings insects to life, which feed a variety of vertebrates, which in turn feed other animals up the food chain.

Have you ever wondered why some animals like reptiles sleep through the winter? Brumation is a sleep-like state that many ectothermic (cold-blooded) animals revert to when the temperature drops below a normal operating range. Since ectothermic animals cannot generate their own heat, they are subject to their environment around them. This is a huge advantage in the evolutionary sense as it means they aren't wasting energy trying to stay warm like most birds or mammals are. This means they can eat infrequently and survive in very tough conditions that other animals wouldn't be able to, such as the outback or cold Canberra winters. They simply bury themselves in a safe spot under the ground and go to sleep. When the weather warms up, they wake up and come out of their hiding spot to a beautiful spring day. Not a bad deal I'd say!

Herpetologists (zoologists that study reptiles and amphibians) have also long figured out that brumation is important for reptile reproduction.

What's better after a long winter nap than waking up to spring flowers, and finding love is in the air? Most reptiles need to go into brumation in order to trigger their reproductive systems so when they wake up, one of the first things they do is start searching for a partner. Therefore, you see snakes on the move a lot at this time of year. Most of the time the snake is just passing through and won't be sticking around for long. If you leave it alone and let it go on its way, there's a high chance you'll never see it again.

Some reptiles such as Shinglebacks come back to their same partner year after year and can be said to be "monogamous". This has been observed year after year in areas where people watch and know their local lizards and has also been proven by an ongoing study done in South Australia by the late Professor Michael Bull for the past 35 years. As Shinglebacks are fairly common in this area, you may get to know your local pair, so keep your eyes out for them!

Blue tongues are also very common, and many people have one in their garden helping keep the pesky snails at bay. It's always a sure sign of spring when your local blue tongue lizard is seen basking again after a long winter nap.

So, enjoy your spring flowers, keep an eye out for our reptilian friends, and look forward to longer days ahead!

ALICIA THE REPTILE CHICK



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



*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.

Smart city thinking puts Googong on the map

Googong is set to become a showcase for technology-based urban living thanks to a \$1.1million grant from the Federal Government's Smart Cities program.

Googong developers (Peet and Mirvac) and Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) won the grant that will establish Googong as a showcase for technology infrastructure, helping reduce everyday community service costs including waste management, utility consumption and the maintenance of amenities.

The first element of the Smart City infrastructure is already in place with the installation of a smart wind turbine and solar-powered pole (pictured) - a foundation component in the new township's high-tech backbone.

Googong Project Director Malcolm Leslie said Googong would be an innovator in smart city living - one of the first towns in Australia to have smart technology built in from the ground up.

The announcement comes hot on the heels of Googong taking out two wins in the prestigious Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) NSW Awards for Excellence, including best masterplanned community and best regional development.

Shortly, 5G ready "smart" light poles will be installed throughout the newest stages of Googong including its main commercial centre, which is currently being built, the second residential neighbourhood and key public areas like Googong Common.

"The 'smart' poles have the capability to be seamlessly fitted with network infrastructure to provide services such as free public Wi-Fi, digital wayfinding and surveillance cameras. They will also enable Council to remotely manage key services like waste management, car park usage, irrigation, lighting, BBQs and security," Mr Leslie said.

"This is the way of the future. Instead of sending trucks to Googong to check when bins need emptying or if a street light has a fault, Council will know immediately and assign resources accordingly.

"Since Googong began it has been an innovative development which has made it a popular choice for thousands of residents. The Smart Cities program will continue this innovation with technology at the core of our community."

QPRC Mayor, Cr Tim Overall said technology was a major driving force in our home life and across major cities and it was important to drive similar efficiencies within local communities by embedding smart infrastructure throughout the streets, landscapes and public areas.

"The Federal Government Grant provides an opportunity to create a technologically advanced city that is safer for our residents and sets a standard for other Australian cities who want to follow our lead," Mayor Overall said.

"Working together with Googong, we will be documenting the installation, operation and management of this infrastructure and building a blueprint to help other developers in the future.

"Council is very committed to the smart cities movement, highlighted by the adoption of its Digital Economy and Smart Community Strategy and the installation of public Wi-Fi, parking sensors and environmental sensors in the Queanbeyan CBD."

Implementation of the smart city infrastructure is expected to offer the Council long term benefits; potentially saving time and money on maintenance costs. Some of the proposed infrastructure will be installed as a 'proof of concept' to provide further information on which to base further investment decisions on the infrastructure.

The new system is expected to be operational, with smart poles installed, by June 2020.

GOOGONG RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION CO-PRESIDENTS CANDICE COX, LEFT, AND CLAIR NUNN-FURZEY COMPARE DEVICES AS GOOGONG PREPARES TO BECOME ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST WIRED "SMART" CITIES.



**GOOGBINS –
SMART BINS
COMING SOON
TO GOOGONG**

OUR SMART BINS ARE
SOLAR-POWERED AND
CAN COMPACT UP TO
FIVE TIMES MORE WASTE
THAN A REGULAR BIN.

Saturday 12 October 2019



Rural Fire Service Open Day

Googong's Rural Fire Service Open Day was a chance for everyone to live their childhood fantasy – climb the big red fire trucks, have a go with the hoses, chat to some local heroes and try the firies' emergency gear on for size.

Photography by Lightbulb Studio.





GOOGONG *playgroup*



Googong Playgroup's vision is to connect children, families and communities within a creative, supportive and welcoming environment. We aim to help build support networks and friendships for families within our growing town, and to help new members find other services within their local communities. Googong Playgroup is an inclusive environment and welcomes all parents, carers and grandparents within Googong and the region.

We meet weekly during school term, on a Friday morning from 10:30am – 11:30am at the Googong Community Centre, corner McPhail Way and Gorman Drive Googong.

Membership is free. For further information, please contact Googong's Community Development Manager at community@googong.net Be sure to join our facebook group – Googong Playgroup

THE ANGLICAN SCHOOL GOOGONG



At The Anglican School Googong we place value on community, relationships, versatility and student-centred learning. Our purposeful and contemporary school environment promotes an engaged and connected student experience that facilitates active thinkers and delivers a school community of inspired contributors.

As an innovative, independent school we offer learning from Kindergarten to Year 9 in 2020. From 2023, we will provide classes from Kindergarten to Year 12.

ENROLLING NOW

Places are available in most year groups for 2020 – please contact the school for more information contact the School on 6154 9400 or at enrolments@tasg.nsw.edu.au

OPEN DAY

Please join us at our next Open Evening – Wednesday, 13 November at 6:30pm where you will hear from our Principal, Heads of Junior and Senior School and the ELC Director. You will be able to tour the school and see what learning at Googong is all about. We look forward to welcoming you to the school.



GOOGONG RETIREES AND SENIORS GROUP

We are in the process of creating an informal group to connect people, and provide friendship and support for Retirees and Seniors living in the Googong Region.

At our first meeting, we discussed what sort of meet ups, groups and activities people would like to see. Some of which included a walk and chat group, art classes, games clubs and book clubs. Not to mention regular social catch ups and events, including a wine and cheese night.

If you would like to be included in the group and would like to keep updated, please contact our Community Development Manager, Samantha Remmers for further information. 1300 446 646 or community@googong.net



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 the 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.

BE SSSNAKE SMART

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

- Never try and 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

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.	



UPCOMING *Events*

Googong Christmas Carols

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2019
6:00PM – 8:00PM
BELTANA PARK, GOOGONG | FREE



This is a beautiful evening of carols – just carols – with the big brass sounds of the Canberra City Band.

SAVE THE DATE!

Googfest

AN EVENING OF FREE LIVE MUSIC AT ROCKLEY OVAL.

SATURDAY,
1 FEBRUARY 2020*
5.00PM – 9.00PM

*Event hosting may be subject to the progress of Old Cooma Road roadworks and its impact on Emergency Vehicle access to the region. We will keep you advised.

ROYAL HOTEL QBN



Book dinner at the **Royal Hotel Queanbeyan** bistro for ANY Friday or Saturday night from now until Christmas, they'll pick you up with a **FREE GOOGONG SHUTTLE BUS!**

The bus will collect your party from the bus stop at Beltana Park, Beltana Road at 6.30pm. Return shuttles are 9.00pm and 11.30pm. Kids are welcome too.

Phone the bistro on **6297 1444** to make your booking.

Just moved in?

If you have 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**. It's also important to keep your contact details up-to-date with her so you can be advised of resident-only functions and events.



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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 Development Executive or email community@googong.net

Disclaimer: 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.



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