

Opening of "The Gathering Place" - Australia Day 2015

About 100 people turned up on a glorious sunny morning for the official unveiling of stage 1 of 'The Gathering Place' and to celebrate Australia Day at Greta. The grounds looked amazing and we had just enough wind to keep it cool and allow the flags to fly. The Ceremony run to military precision by our MC Adrian (Ned) Younger.

'The Gathering Place' is situated at the front of the Greta-Hansonville Hall on the left as you drive through the gate. Stage 1 sees the completion of the paved semicircle area, the flag poles and the placement of what will become the memorial rock.

Uncle Wally Cooper gave the welcome to country and performed a smoking ceremony. Uncle Wally made particular reference to the shared history of both Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians and that the way forward is to acknowledge both.

Noleen Lloyd gave an overview of how the project evolved, from a group of three with big dreams and no money, to a large dedicated, combined committee who are well on the way to achieving their vision.

Rod Roscholler from the Rural City of Wangaratta gave a brief address and then Cathy McGowan AO, MP, Federal Member for Indi unveiled the plaque and unfurled the flag. Ms McGowan spoke about communities and their "can do" attitude. She also told us she would love to come back and unveil stage 2 - we'll keep her to that!

Uncle Wally unfurled the Indigenous flag. With arousing edition of our anthem ringing out across Greta there really was no better place to be.

Joan Ellis thanked our guests with some gifts (all local produce) and the Ceremony drew to a close.



Opening of 'The Gathering Place' - Continued....

The project would not have been able to get off the ground, let alone progress this far without the mighty effort of the combined committees of the Greta Heritage Group, Greta-Hansonville Hall and the Greta Sporting Complex. What started out as conversation between 3-4 people around the kitchen table has evolved into a group of dedicated and enthusiastic committee members who have driven this project with the support and encouragement from the wider community. 'The Gathering Place' is something for the whole district to be proud of.

This stage has been completed thanks to a Grant from the FRRR, and the partial use of a Grant from the Anzac Centenary Grants Program. This Grant will also fund the Wall, plaque and Honour Boards.

Along with the Grants, there have been donations from individuals and families, businesses and the community. These donations have been in the form of cash, materials, resources, knowledge and skills and in some cases manual labour. Thanks to everyone who has given so much.

We would like to acknowledge the following businesses and individuals who assisted with donating materials and labour to the project.

Mawsons Glenrowan Quarries
Michael Hansen Engineering Pty. Ltd.
Geoff Hogan
Canny Carrying Co. Pty. Ltd.
Trevor Anderson Concrete

Massive thanks go to Committee member Trevor Dinning who was not only the Site Foreman - but spent a fair amount of time on the shovel - efforts like Trevor's kept our costs down.

In addition to the above the Rural City of Wangaratta and Milawa Mustards also sponsored the Day. The Wangaratta Chronicle continues to support and promote the project.

Greta Netball Development Squad

Looking for girls between the ages of 12-16 who'd like to play Saturday morning netball for the Greta FNC Development Squad.

Tryouts are Tues Feb 17th, Thurs Feb 19th, Tues Feb 24th & Thurs Feb 26th, 5pm at the Barr Reserve Netball Courts, Wangaratta.

For details or further info please contact Emily Naish on 0434086773.



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Prepare your property

Summer is here, now's the time to make sure your property is fire ready. Keep grass short, shift woodpiles well away from your house, and cut back overhanging branches. Replace any woodchip or dry straw mulch in your garden with non-flammable pebbles or rocks. Put in the time now before the hot weather strikes to give your home and assets the best possible chance of getting through a fire.

Are you ready for grassfire?

Don't underestimate the potential for fast-running grassfires this season*. At up to 25 kilometres per hour, grassfires can spread fast and threaten lives and homes with little warning. Grass dries out a lot quicker than forest or bushland, so expect fires to start early in the day.

Three decisions every family should make before fire season

If you're in a bushfire risk area, there are a few decisions you need to make so that you are ready to leave quickly, calmly and safely on a bushfire risk day.

First – decide on your trigger to leave early. Get to know the Fire Danger Ratings – they tell you what action to take (and when) to stay safe.

Second – decide where you'll go when you leave – it could be to a relative or friends' house or shopping centre.

Third – think about what you'll take with you. Make sure important things are ready to go when you are.

To find out more about planning for bushfire, go to cfa.vic.gov.au.

Fire Danger Ratings

If you're living or travelling in a bushfire risk area this summer, you need to know the daily Fire Danger Rating. The Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to act. It tells you know when conditions are dangerous enough for you to take action – whether that's increasing your level of awareness, reviewing your fire plan, or leaving a high bushfire risk area early. Check your district's rating at cfa.vic.gov.au, or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on **1800 240 667**.

Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans – what's the difference?

Most of us have seen Fire Danger Rating signs on the side of road. But if your kids came up and asked you to explain them, could you tell them what the ratings really mean? You probably know that **Total Fire Bans** are days where certain activities are legally banned. By following these regulations you're helping to keep your community safe.

Fire Danger Ratings tell you what you need to do to you keep you and your family safe.

Total Fire Bans – a reminder from CFA

CFA would like to remind you that on a day of Total Fire Ban you can't light any kind of fire outside, including campfires or bonfires. The same goes for your BBQ if it uses liquid fuel, or wood, charcoal or briquettes.

Know what to do if you live near grassland

If you live next to grassland, you need to think about what you'll do if there's a fire, and how to prepare. Before and during summer, clear weeds, sticks, leaves and remove firewood, rubbish and other fuel from around your property.

If a fire does start, you need to quickly put two or three house blocks between you and the fire. Act as early as you can, and never try to get a closer look – you'll just put yourself and others in danger. Stay safe from grassfire this summer if you live next to grassland.

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