

The GRETA BUNYIP

"YOUR GRETA & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER"

gretabunyip@gmail.com

EDITION NO: 70

December 2022

Australia Day Celebration at the Greta Hansonville Hall

10.30am Thursday January 26

Shared morning tea and flag raising provided by the hall committee

Address by Rural City of Wangaratta Councillor



GRETA CRICKET CLUB 2022/2023

Greta Cricket Club

Christmas Party

Twenty20



Sunday December 18th

2:00pm

@Greta Rec Reserve

Drinks at bar prices

Pulled pork rolls \$5

BYO chairs and picnic blankets

2022 OXLEY REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AND CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Centenary Of Oxley Shire Soldiers Memorial

After the Great War officially ended on Nov. 11, 1918 and soldiers and nurses returned to their communities in the coming months, it was not long until the then Shire of Oxley councillors and residents began to discuss a fitting memorial to honour those who had served and particularly, those who did not return. Records show this discussion had begun by May 1919 and also involved the neighbouring Wangaratta Shire and Borough Councils.

The original Oxley Shire encompassed localities including Oxley, Milawa, Whorouly, Carboor, Meadow Creek, Moyhu, Edi, Edi Upper, Whitfield, Cheshunt, Whitlands, Myrree, Hansonville, Greta South, Greta, Greta West and Laceby. The Oxley Shire had to decide whether to contribute to one central memorial in Wangaratta or to erect its own memorial, and whether it would levy the ratepayers or if subscription alone would cover the costs. Eventually it was decided to build their own memorial and it was a matter of pride that the cost of A£600 pounds was covered entirely by subscription.

The original memorial, located on the opposite side of the Snow Rd to where it is now, was opened on November 11, 1922 with the dedication ceremony commencing at 11 am, followed by luncheon in the grounds of the Oxley Shire Hall. The afternoon ceremony for presentation of certificates to soldiers and their relatives began at 2.30 pm and concluded with singing God Save the King at 4.30 pm. Approximately 1,000 people were reported to have attended.

Moving on 100 years, the Oxley Residents Association decided that this centenary year commemoration of Armistice Day should honour the 1922 service of dedication by including some elements of the original service. Mr Robin Gibb and Mr John Brown AO, grandsons of the 1922 Shire President and Secretary, laid the community wreath. Mr Robert Cook, a relative of Robert Cook, M.H.R., presented the commemoration certificates. The speaker, Lt. Gen. (Ret) Ash Power AO CSC unveiled a commemorative plaque, initially covered by the Australia flag used in the original ceremony. The cenotaph was originally designed and later unveiled by the then shire engineer, Lt. Colonel W.H. Scott C.M.G., D.S.O. and Bar (Rtd) and built by Mr A. Parnall, Wangaratta stone mason.

This year some members of our local Greta/Hansonville and Myrree communities received commemoration certificates in honour of their original soldier relatives. Bill McMonigle of Greta West was one of four sons or daughters of the soldiers to receive such a certificate in honour of his father, Robert John (Jack) McMonigle. Jake Hawkins, grandson of Geoff and Eileen Dinning of Wangaratta, received a certificate in honour of his grandfather's great uncle, William Wallace Dinning. Jake had recently completed a school project on William Wallace Dinning. John McCarthy is still to receive a certificate to honour his late G.G. uncle, Thomas McCarthy. (K.I.A.) These soldiers are included on the re-created honour board in the Greta-Hansonville Hall.

Further afield there were eight recipients of commemorative certificates for the eight sons of the Hancock family of Myrree, led by their senior member, Mr Vic. Hancock. Other families now living at Moyhu, Wangaratta and surrounds received certificates to honour the Legg, Tanner and Mahony soldiers, also included on the Greta-Hansonville Honour Board. (Members of the public had been invited in the Wangaratta Chronicle to request a commemorative certificate for their relative prior to the day.)

The ceremony began with a fly over by a W.W. 2 aeroplane and included contributions by the Oxley and Milawa school children as well as wreath laying, a Catafalque party, placement of poppies, The Ode, Flanders Poem, Remembrance Prayer, a minute's silence and the bugler, Graeme Beale, playing a very moving Last Post and Reveille.

Thank you to the Oxley Residents Association and their organising committee for a wonderful ceremony and the chance to pay our final respects to all the soldiers of the Greta-Hansonville and Myrree districts, and for the historical display and delicious luncheon served afterwards in the Oxley Hall.

Joan Ellis.



Left, Geoff Dinning and his grandson Jake Hawkins

Above, Bill and Val McMonigal

Below, The original opening of the cenotaph on November 11, 1922





It feels as though we have missed a season, Spring has gone awol and now somehow we have arrived in December and it's nearly Christmas! We wish everyone in our community a happy and safe festive and holiday season with their families and we hope the sun comes out shining for us sometime soon to herald the start of summer.

Last call for weed control assistance on the Boggy and Fifteen Mile Creeks

We have a small amount of funding available to support weed control on river frontages this summer. A 30% landholder contribution will be required towards weed control. We are targeting the control of blackberry, hawthorn, black willow, box elder and some climbing weeds. Priority will be given to those who have not yet participated in the program or received funding assistance over the past two summers. Please get in touch with Sally on 0437 136 162 to discuss your needs for weed control on your river frontage and we will work with you to develop a plan.

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government through the Murray Darling Healthy Rivers Program.

New Weed Identification and Control guide now available

The Rural City of Wangaratta has new pest plant and animal resources available which were developed locally with funding from the Australian Government. A great new local weed booklet "Weeds in the Rural City of Wangaratta – A field guide for identification and control" is available free from the Council office. You can also view it online here <https://imags.com.au/published/weeds/>

Chilean Needle Grass (pictured below)

It's that time of year again and with the rainfall, the Chilean Needle Grass has been a little later to form a seed head. Council contractors will be spraying this grass on roadsides in the coming weeks. If you have this on roadsides, please avoid slashing until after it has been sprayed, as otherwise it becomes very hard to identify.

If you see blue dye on your roadside, this marks where contractors have sprayed with a selective herbicide targeting this grass. These species are highly invasive and the seeds can be spread easily to other areas of your property by machinery including slashers and vehicles.

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about these invasive grasses. Thank you to our contractors Garry and Kylie Kneebone, who have provided guidance to our group on their trials of herbicide to control these grasses. Read about their secret recipe for herbicide rates and application for Chilean Needle Grass on our website at <https://gretalandcare.org.au/projects/roadside-weed-mapping/>

For further enquiries about Landcare or any of our projects, please get in touch with Sally Day on 0437 136 162 or email sally.day@gretalandcare.org.au



NORTH EAST HEALTH WANGARATTA

Vaccination Outreach Clinics

Due to overwhelming demand, vaccination clinics being conducted in Wangaratta by Ovens and Murray Public Health Unit (OM PHU) must be booked.

Bookings are required for COVID and JEV vaccinations. Please read the information below for Wangaratta clinics or scan the QR code to book an appointment.

Wangaratta Clinic dates and booking info,

- Monday 12 December
- Tuesday 13 December
- 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Nissen Hut, Gateway Health, 45 Mackay St, Wangaratta

Book for COVID:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/470783565317>

Book for JEV:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/469686483917>

Please arrive at the clinic at least 20 minutes before the scheduled closing time to allow for post-vaccination wait times.

For more information on additional outreach clinics visit

<http://www.nhw.org.au/.../Vaccination-Outreach-Clinics.pdf>

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND DO NOT BOOK IF YOU ARE INELIGIBLE FOR A JEV VACCINATION.

We do not vaccinate those aged under five.

Vaccination is available for:-

- People who live or routinely work in a number of local government areas including Benalla and Wangaratta
- Spend significant time outdoors (four hours per day), for unavoidable work, recreational, educational or other essential activities; OR
- Living in temporary or flood damaged accommodation (e.g.camps, tents, dwellings exposed to the external environment) that place them at increased risk of exposure to mosquitoes; OR
- Are engaged in the prolonged outdoor recovery efforts (clean up) of stagnant waters following floods.

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Warby Ward Councillor, Irene Grant Community Catch Up.

I held a meeting with the Greta community at the Greta Hansonville Hall on November 16. This meeting, the second this year, is a way that I as ward councillor for the district can meet and discuss issues of concern and interest with the community.

I was pleased to see a large number of people in the meeting room – discussion focused on grant programs, waste management, the cemetery, the Bunyip community magazine and of course roads and road maintenance. As always there was a list of items to take on notice and investigate – one being the suggestion of a historical story board at Greta West. More to come on that issue.



There was a lot of discussion around the future and maintenance of the hall – recent work at the Milawa Hall was highlighted as a positive example for how the community can come together and make a huge physical difference to a local facility with the RCOW's assistance.

The mayor and deputy also came to the meeting.

Since the meeting I have had the opportunity to go on a tour of the Greta roads and culverts – any necessary works have been marked down for action on the schedule.

Naturally there are always tougher issues to resolve, but this clearly can't be done without the support of the local community.

Next meeting in February, date to be advised.

Irene Grant Councillor Rural City of Wangaratta,
Warby Ward.

57 220 888 or 0428 189 249

i.grant@wangeratta.vic.gov.au

GRETA VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Greta Valley P.S.

Christmas Concert will be held on

Thursday the 15th December

7pm

Molyullah Hall.

The community is welcome to attend and join in the Christmas celebrations.

On behalf of Greta Valley Primary School, we would like to wish the community a safe and relaxed Christmas period.



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