



Your April 2023 Community Newsletter

ST PAUL'S COLLEGE WALLA WALLA CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

What a wonderful afternoon and evening we had on Friday 17th March. With perfect weather and close to 700 Staff, Students, Parents, Old Collegians and Community Members celebrated 75 years of St Paul's College.

We were honoured to host four members of the Foundation Class of 1948 - Cecil Lieschke, Lorraine Wiesner, Joan Gibbons and Harvey Heinjus.

A Thanksgiving Service followed by formal proceedings which included presentations to the Foundation Students and to the Walla Walla Historical Society.

The new Lutheran Schools Partnership, InspirEd was officially launched by Anita Morton (SPC), Brad Moss (St John's Jindera and St Paul's Henty) and Janet Moeller (Wagga Wagga Lutheran Primary School).

Demonstrations, food and activities ran well into the evening, culminating in the drawing of the P&F Raffle. Thank you to all who attended, and to all who had a part in the planning of the event.

*Photos courtesy Rob Lacey Photography
More photos on p.12 >>*



ST PAUL'S COLLEGE

CELEBRATING
75 Years
1948-2023

stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au

Ph: 0260292200

admin@stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au

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PLUS

So much more...

We acknowledge the generous support for the community newsletter from Kotzur Pty Ltd (printing) and the Walla Walla Post Office (newsletter distribution).

Editor: Steph Odewahn
Team: Julie Barber, Françoise McPherson, Herb Simpendorfer.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily representative of the editors, the newsletter team, Kotzur Pty Ltd or, the Walla Walla Community Development Committee.

Where there are space limitations, the editor may need to edit or omit articles. The editor will not be held responsible for any errors.

WANT TO SUBMIT A NEWSLETTER ARTICLE?

Please send in any special acknowledgements, articles or requests to:

wallanewsletter@gmail.com

or drop them in the box at the Walla Post Office.

Please submit all articles by 12pm on the 15th of each month



If you don't need your Newsletter anymore, please leave it or any other old copies you have, at the Walla Post Office for others to read.

ANZAC DAY AT WALLA WALLA - 25 APRIL 2023

This year we Commemorate Australia's Vietnam War Service



DAWN SERVICE

The service will begin at 5:45am at Bi-Centennial Park. The service will run for approximately 30 minutes. It will be dark when we start, and the sun will rise while we are there. There will be bugle calls, action with the flag, a short talk and The Ode. Please bring a chair if you would like to sit down. Coffee/breakfast available at local cafe.

MAIN SERVICE

The main service will commence at 11am at Bi-Centennial Park. People marching will gather at 10:30am at Kotzur's factory. Anyone who would like to march is welcome to do so. Chairs will be set up at Bi-Centennial Park. Soldiers from Albury and The Scots School Albury musicians will be in attendance. Our normal program will be followed, with laying of the wreaths, bugle calls, guest speaker, a catafalque party, hymns, The Ode and ending with Amazing Grace.

LUNCH

After the service at the park, we move to the Town Hall area for the Lions Club / Red Cross lunch. There will be a display of military items in the Memorial Hall.



Above and below Photos courtesy of Andy Rickey

RED CROSS

Eight members attended our first meeting for 2023. The Pledge was recited. It was discussed and all agreed that we hold a **Raffle on the NSW Election Day** at the Walla Walla Public School on the **25th March**.

We will also have a Mother's Day Raffle in May. More info later nearer the time.

Of course we will still hold the **Anzac Day Luncheon**.

Two large bags of personal items were delivered to help women of domestic violence. **Thank you** to those who contributed. We will start again later in the year.

No meeting on 26th April as Red Cross are involved with the ANZAC Day activities on April 25th.

Meeting closed and a cuppa and cake were enjoyed by all.
By Dorothy Cremer, President



FIRST AID - THANK YOU

On behalf of the community, our thanks to Phil Cooper who was a regular contributor to the newsletter with various First Aid articles. Phil has now left the area and covered a broad range of topics that he hopes will not need to be used in the community. Thank you Phil for your contributions.

SAVE THE DATE: KOTZUR REUNION 14 / 15 October 2023

Commencing with dinner on Saturday 14th October at Culcairn Bowling Club the Kotzur family are planning a get together of family and friends to share a meal and some memories and hopefully meet some new members of this wonderful family.

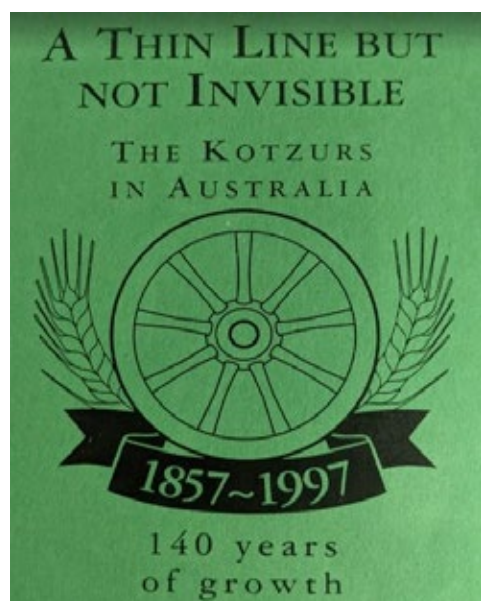
Also planned is a worship service to be held at Alma Park Church the following morning on the 15th October where family and friends can meet again, celebrate their heritage and journey of faith with thanksgiving and enjoy a light luncheon at the Alma Park Hall.

We invite you to bring past pics and any historic items that you may wish to display in the Hall.

As the date draws nearer I will confirm times for both meal and church service.

Graeme Wenke 0427 327 215

Please share this with family and friends.



WALLA WALLA CROQUET CLUB

Now that the heat of summer seems to have passed, we are changing our starting times on Mondays and Saturdays back to 9am.



You are very welcome to come along to the Walla Bowling Club anytime we are there and try our fun game of Croquet.

We play on Saturday and Monday mornings starting at 9am. Please wear flat soled shoes.

Dieter Fenz	Helen Krause
President	Secretary
0437 365 296	0427 260 737

Easter Church times



Holy Thursday
6 April



Good Friday
7 April



Easter Sunday
9 April

Anglican, Culcairn		9:30am	9:30am
Baptist, Walla Walla			10am
Catholic, Walla Walla		12noon Stations of the Cross	
Lutheran, Walla Walla	7:30pm	9am	6:30am Dawn Service at Walla Cemetery 9am at Church
Lutheran, Alma Park		10:30am	6:30am Dawn Service at Alma Park Cemetery
Uniting, Walbundrie		9am	

LOCAL PAINTER SEEKING WORK

Recently moved to town and looking to take on more work / new clients.

- All aspects of Interior / Exterior painting
- over 10 years experience
- No job too big or small
- No obligation free quotes
- ABN and business insurance
- Professional, written quotes
- Basic handyman tasks as well, please do not hesitate to ask.

Any and all enquiries please call Pat on 0423 244 054, or alternatively email: patrick.a.lewis:pl@gmail.com



SENIOR CITIZENS

Representatives from Aidacare Health care were present at our March meeting to show us what is available in times of need. Mobility walkers, shower seats, toilet seats, walking aids, cushions to a bottle opener and electric kettle and much more.

A bus trip has been organized for us on the third of April, leaving the Walla Bowling Club at 9.30am and travelling to the Albury Botanical Gardens for morning tea. Lunch will be at the Newmarket Hotel. Bookings to Dorothy 02 60292120.

OUTBACK PATROL

Outback Patrol are flying into Walla Walla soon! Watch out for more details on what they will be doing in Walla Walla on Sunday June 4th.

The mission of Outback Patrol is to try to meet some of the human, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families who live in 55 of the most remote and isolated townships inland.

WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 3 APRIL 7PM WALLA WALLA HALL

CHURCH TIMES

Lutheran Church Walla Walla

1st & 3rd Sundays 9am
2nd & 4th Sundays 10:30am
Contact: Tim Biar 02 6029 2144

Lutheran Church Alma Park

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 10:30am
2nd & 4th Sundays 9am
Contact: Leon Kohlhausen 02 6029 6162

Baptist Church Market St Walla Walla

Every Sunday at 10am
Contact: Dorothy Cremer 02 6029 2120

Catholic Church Market St Walla Walla

1st & 4th Sundays 6pm
Contact: Father Terence Mahedy
0458 298 363

Anglican Church Balfour St Culcairn

1st & 3rd Sundays 9:30am
Contact: Father Bob Done 02 6026 3691

Generation Life Riverina Inc, Walla Walla Memorial Hall

4th Sunday 3:30pm
Contact: Pastor Graeme Sheppard
0422 671 149

Community Church Service

This year, these will be held on April 30th, July 30th and October 29th. If anyone has any ideas, contact Jenny 0409 830 225

DEFIBRILLATORS IN WALLA WALLA

At present there are 2 defibrillators available 24 hours a day:

- Veranda of Walla Walla Police Station
- Veranda of Walla Walla Bowling Club



Other defibrillators available during Office hours or when venues are open include:

- Kotzur Pty Ltd - Ph: 6029 4700
- St Paul's College - Ph: 6029 2200
- Walla Walla Fire Brigade
- Walla Walla Swimming Pool
- Walla Walla Sportsground

Please familiarise yourself with their locations in the event of an emergency

LOST

Walla Cricket Club's Premiership photos dating back to 1900's, in a white shoe box.

Please contact Grace 0417 680 940

For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.

**John chapter 3
verse 16**



PRAYING FOR WALLA WALLA

When: Thursday 27 April 7.30pm
Where: Lutheran Church Hall
Prayer Requests:
Jenny Jacob 0409 830 225
All Welcome!!



BOOK & SEED SWAP

In the Hall behind WAW - Open when WAW is.

No fees or membership. Just choose a book, keep it and swap one you have read or bring it back and swap again.

Books for all ages.

Seed Swap - Same rules as the book swap. Take what you need and leave your excess to share with others.

Please use a seed envelope and write on what it is and if possible the year collected.

TAKE OLD CAR BATTERIES TO LIESCHKE MOTORS

The proceeds go to the Walla Walla Community Development Committee, to use as needed for our community.

**Thank You Lieschke
Motors!!**



Jindera Community GARAGE SALE

SUNDAY 23RD APRIL

Scan the QR Code OR Pay Online

Cash payments if necessary at Jindera Post Office

Registrations Now Open

For Residents of Jindera and Jindera Postal Area Only
visit ruralcarelink.org.au

FOR VISITORS

**Maps can be purchased 7.30am onwards
from outside Jindera HUB**

Cost \$2

Enquiries:

Rural Care Link 0475 594 073

Leeny Mason 0419 605 566



Jindera Post Office

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Written by Françoise McPherson

The first Sunday in March every year is Clean Up Australia Day. This day has its origins back in 1989. An Australian man named Ian Kiernan had the idea to make a difference and clean Sydney harbour, his own 'backyard'. Ian was an avid sailor and in 1987, Ian's dream of competing in the BOC Challenge Solo Around-the-World Yacht Race came true with his yacht named 'Spirit of Sydney'. Ian was appalled and disgusted by the amount of rubbish he saw floating in the Caribbean Sea and especially, the Sargasso Sea. The Sargasso Sea is an area in the North Atlantic Ocean where currents (Gulf Stream, North Atlantic Current, Canary Current and North Atlantic Equatorial Current) from different directions meet and this is the largest accumulation of floating rubbish (especially plastic) in the world.



Photos: (Left) Ian Kiernan AO, 1940-2018, Founder and Chairman of Clean Up Australia Day. Right: Sydney Bridge Climb group with the rubbish they collected.

Returning to Sydney, Clean Up Sydney Harbour was initiated in 1989 with the help of the local community and a committee of like-minded friends. There was such enormous public support for this event that more than 40,000 Sydneysiders donated their time and got involved cleaning up the harbour.

The following year, Clean Up Australia Day was born with Ian's belief that if a city could be motivated to clean up a harbour, the whole nation can get involved cleaning up Australia as a whole. At the first Clean Up Australia Day, almost 300,000 volunteers participated and this number increases annually. Now, about a million people get involved on Clean Up Australia Day.

Australians have collected more than 331 tonnes of rubbish in the last 26 years. In 1993, the Clean Up Australia concept went global with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Clean Up the World Day meant 30 million people from 80 countries participated collecting rubbish. By 2007, 35 million from 35 countries took part. This shows that despite many people carelessly discarding their rubbish, there are many others who care enough about the environment to do something positive about it. The motto is: 'When the rubbish is gone, nature can carry on.'

Not only is there a strong focus on removing rubbish but also on reducing the amount of rubbish produced. To achieve

that, the Clean Up Australia committee has advocated for the reduction (or outright ban) in single use plastics, initiating recycling incentives such as container refund schemes and working with manufacturers to reduce their waste output.

Rubbish is being carelessly discarded every day and needs to be collected year-round, not only on Clean Up Australia Day. ***There are bins in our town along Commercial Street and the sportsground so there is no excuse for rubbish lying in our gutters and on road verges.*** Along the walking/cycling track to the Gum Swamp, I collected half a rubbish bag full of rubbish which was plastic take away food packages, supermarket hard plastic containers, food wrappers, soft drink cans, baling twine, cable ties, a block of wood, a mouldy jumper and bottles. Pauly Richards and Deb Rickey collected all the broken glass at the sportsground a couple of years ago.

Most of the rubbish collected Australia-wide is plastic (63%) and each year there are different trends. For example, during the pandemic, a lot of facemasks and disposable gloves were discarded outside of bins. Cigarette butts as litter are no longer as prevalent as they once were due to vaping and

e-cigarettes. The amount of rubbish does not change but the type of rubbish may change somewhat. For detailed annual rubbish reports for each State or the whole of Australia, see <https://www.cleanup.org.au/rubbish-report>. Beaches, creeks, rivers and parklands are the most popular sites targeted for clean-up. In Walla Walla, most rubbish is discarded along footpaths with stock routes and rural road verges also targeted by tossers. There are also a lot of dog droppings on nature strips that owners haven't bothered to pick up.

To get involved, you can register yourself or group of participants as volunteers (<https://www.cleanup.org.au/create>) which means you are covered by the organisation's insurance policy and you will be sent a questionnaire for itemising rubbish picked up for the statistical analyses in the report based on your chosen location and you will receive gloves and rubbish bags. But you can pick up rubbish and make a positive difference even without registering. And if you see illegal dumping of rubbish, you can report it to the council or Environmental Protection Agency. It would be good if more residents would get involved in cleaning up Walla and surrounds.

References: <https://www.whylla.sa.gov.au/our-city/news-and-events/clean-up-australia-day>; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clean_Up_Australia; <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=where+is+sargasso+sea>



GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

@ BURRUMBUTTOCK

When: Mondays 6.15am - 7.15am
Fridays 6.15am - 7.15am

Where: Burrumbuttock Sports Ground

Who: All members of Burrumbuttock & surrounding communities are welcome (not just farmers), and all levels of fitness and experience are encouraged to attend!

Cost: First class is free for new members

**Any age,
any level of
fitness,
everyone
can join
us!**

**New & old
members
welcome!**



HENTY / CULCAIRN PROBUS REPORT

Written by Helen Squires

President Yvonne Booth welcomed members and guests, and presented 20 year membership badges and certificates to Alison Schuster and Kevin Fogarty, and welcomed Usha Reddy as a new member.

Herb Simpfendorfer has done the City to City run for the second time and Jan Dew has her lovely garments in the shop window at Henty.

Special anniversaries are being celebrated by Lila and Haydon married 66 years, Diane and John married 61 years, and Jeannie and Gary married 54 years. Congratulations to you all.

Herb Simpfendorfer was our five minute speaker and he likes to be innovative, as well as to deliver the unexpected. We learned that Herb goes to aged care places like Myoora at Henty, as well as Culcairn and Holbrook, to entertain folks with his music, and we were lucky enough to listen to a little of his extensive repertoire, finishing with Haydn's Serenade played on the violin. Thankyou to Herb for sharing his talent.

Following the Annual General Meeting we welcomed a few changes with:

President: Yvonne Booth

Vice President: Warren Berkeley Secretary: Beryl Meyer

Treasurer: Heather Collis, with Vice Treasurer Diane

Newsletter editor: Kevin Fogarty, Tour Director: Alison Schuster

New memberships: Margaret Pumpa Publicity person: Helen Squires

Program director: Neil Parker

Historical director: Julie Parker; and Public officer: Alison Schuster

Thank you to Karen Kotzur and her helpers for arranging morning tea.

Mr. Anthony Lieschke was our main speaker, of D.E. Lieschke and son who recently celebrated 100 year anniversary of this family business. Anthony spoke of Holden cars and his family and gave praise to his wife Julie being his best supporter. He thanked family and staff, local and wider community and partners of family as quiet achievers behind the business, for their love and support.

Anthony also follows family tradition being involved with St Paul's College as their Chairman and told of upcoming celebrations honouring the past and looking forward to the future after 75 years of educating people.

Kevin Knobel presented Anthony with a Probus pen as a token of our thanks.

We went to the Walla Walla hotel for lunch and lots of conversation.

Next meeting of Probus will be at Henty on 12th April.

WEEDS AT WALLA WALLA

By Herb Simpfendorfer

Two topics this time: Hairy panic and fleabane.

Hairy panic is about to pester us by putting huge heaps of stalks on our verandahs, near sheds and fences. There are some photos on the Internet of bigger heaps than we have.

The Internet suggests rakes and brooms have been tried to get rid of them, but with limited success. I use a whipper snipper, with total success. Put the machine on a fairly slow speed, use long cord. Walk slowly into the heap, waving the machine up and down. At first it seems the stalks all get blown away, but some are cut up because they have not had time to get away. Keep on going and after a while, the heap gets smaller and smaller.

Then all stalks are gone, and there are bits on the ground, ready to be swept up and put into the bin. Easy and stress free. One person job. This method only works for heaps. If stalks are caught in plants, the only method seems to be pulling the stalks out one by one.

Fleabane survives spraying and mowing. In mowed areas, it just keeps on growing from the small bit left under mower blade height. The plants can be killed by pulling out of soft ground, or chipping with a heavy hoe at ground level.



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Plumbin'
& DIGGIN'**

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- Tree Stump Removal
- Rotary Hoe
- Yard Levelling
- Landscaping
- Post Holes
- Trenching



**If you want to dig it, pipe it, pump
it or fix it – we can do it!**

Mobile: 0403 191 780
www.blueysplumbin.com.au

DOVE COTTAGE



OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATION

66 COMMERCIAL ST / WALLA WALLA

PH: 0412 378 451

COMMUNITY DIARY

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 • Daylight Savings ends 3:00am - move clocks backward one hour						1 • Croquet, 9am, BC
2 • Daylight Savings ends 3:00am - move clocks backward one hour	3 • Croquet, 9am, Bowls Club (BC) • RRLibrary, WWPS, 9am - 11am • Senior Citizens, 9:30am, travel (p.3) • CDC Meeting, 7pm, Hall	4 • Social Tennis, 9am Walla Courts	5	6 • NSW School Term 1 Ends	7 GOOD FRIDAY See p.3 for Church Times	8 • Croquet, 9am, BC
9 EASTER SUNDAY See p.3 for Church Times	10 EASTER MONDAY	11 • Social Tennis, 9am Walla Courts	12 • Henty / Culcairn Probus, 10am, • Henty	13	14 • Friday night meals & Bonanza Draws - Bowling Club, from 6:30pm	15 • Croquet, 9am, BC • RWW Giants v CDHBU @ Walla Walla
16	17 • Croquet, 9am, BC • RRLibrary, WWPS, 9am - 11am	18 • Social Tennis, 9am Walla Courts	19 • Council Meeting, 6pm, Holbrook Library	20	21 • Friday night meals & Bonanza Draws - Bowling Club, from 6:30pm	22 • Croquet, 9am, BC • RWW Giants v Magpies @ Urana Rd Oval
23 • Jindera Community Garage Sale	24 • Croquet, 9am, Bowls Club (BC) • RRLibrary, WWPS, 9am - 11am	25 ANZAC DAY See p.2 for event details	26 • NSW School Term 2 commences	27 • Praying for Walla, 7:30pm, p.4	28 • Friday night meals & Bonanza Draws - Bowling Club, from 6:30pm	29 • Croquet, 9am, BC • RWW Giants v Culcairn @ Walla Walla



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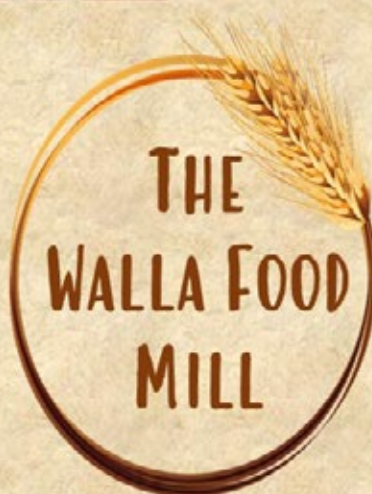
Forgotten something in your weekly shop? We now offer a small but convenient line of groceries. Pop in for a browse today.

Opening Hours
Mon – Wed 6am till 4pm
Thurs – 6am till 7:30pm
Friday - 6am till 8pm
Saturday 8am till 2pm

Come in and take a break.
Have a seat out in our courtyard or in the dining room!

- Cakes/Slices
- Burgers
- Pies/Sausage Rolls
- Hot Food
- Fresh Sandwiches/Rolls
- Tea/Coffee
- Cold Drinks

Follow us on Facebook for daily & seasonal specials!



Takeaway Thursday & Friday Nights!

Phone : 02 6029 2033



LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

Walla Walla Bowling Club **6029 2146**

Closed Sunday & Monday Open
 Tuesday - Saturday from 5.30pm,
 The number of patrols in the Club
 determines closing time.
 Meals are available Friday evenings

Bank WAW 6029 2392

Monday - Thursday: 12.30 - 4.30pm
 Friday: 11am - 12.30pm (closed for
 lunch 12.30 - 1.30pm), Friday pm: 1.30
 - 5pm

Walla Walla Post Office 6029 2231

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm; Saturday
 9 - 11am

Second Hand Rose 6029 2116

Thursday - Friday: 1.30 - 4.30pm
 Saturday: 9.30 - 11.30am

On Demand Regional Bus

Bookings: Phone or text 0448 353 281

Walla Walla Hair Salon 6029 2277

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am -
 5:30pm

Justice of the Peace

Anthony Lieschke
 02 6029 2202

Walla Hotel 6029 2309

Monday - Friday: Opens at 2:30pm
 Saturday: Opens 11am
 Sunday: Opens 12 noon
 Kitchen: Thursday - Saturday 6-8pm
 Sunday 12 - 2pm
 Meals other times for min. of 10 if
 booked.

Walla Food Mill 6029 2033

Monday - Wednesday: 6am - 4pm
 Thursday - Friday: 6am - 8pm
 Saturday: 8am - 2pm

Morgan's Lookout

Non-daylight savings time: 8am - 5pm
 Daylight savings time: 8am - 7pm
 Gates are locked outside of these hours

Terry White Chemist Walla Walla **6029 2496**

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
 Facebook: Terry White Chemmart Walla

Side Door Giftwares

Thursday - Saturday: 10am - 2pm

Vecare Health Walla Walla

Monday: 9.30am - 5pm
 Wednesday: 9.30am - 3pm
 Friday: 9.30am - 5pm
 Ph: **6073 2605** (during Walla opening
 hours) or **6036 2952** (Holbrook on other
 days)

Pathology Service:

Wednesday 8:30 - 11:30am
www.vecarehealth.com.au

Walla Police 6053 4570

Emergency: 000

Mobile Library

Every Monday at 9am in front of the
 Walla Walla Public School, except
 public holidays

Thistle Cafe

02 6029 2003
 Wednesday to Friday 8:30am - 3pm
 Saturday and Sunday 8am - 2pm
 Closed Monday and Tuesday

Return and Earn

10c eligible containers
 Call 1300 849 781 or
 text 0447 927 722

FLAMING FIRES OF DEVASTATION TO FANNING FLOWERS OF LOVE

A wedding ceremony location of stunning historical features was held in the grounds of the Jindera Pioneer Museum behind the old Wagner Store on the 5th of March.

This was enjoyed by all guests who attended the wedding of Jillian Nolan née Wegener from Galston, Sydney and Bevin Wenke from Walla Walla.

After organising the local photographer, Frances Terlich and local celebrant Sarah Schmidt just hours before, the couple's entire belongings, home and shedding were destroyed by a fire that began in a newly installed stand alone solar system on the evening of the 3rd of January.

The couple were not deterred from changing their marriage date, and were able to replace birth certificates burnt in the fire in time for the celebrant to complete the paper work.

There has been such an outpouring of love and support to both of us over the last 2 months and we feel that God has shown us a new way forward.

We also want to thank all those involved in fighting the blaze; particularly the local RFS brigades, neighbours and volunteers.

We want to thank all the individuals who have so generously donated clothing, food, money and household items for us to rebuild our lives to some normality.

We want to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

P.S. We also wish to give a special mention to all the folk who helped with organising refuge of an immediate nature on the night of the fire; the ADRA op shop run by the SDA church in Albury opened their op shop for us at midnight and paid for two nights' accommodation and the Pleasant Hills community has provided us with ongoing accommodation.

It is with gratitude that we owe you all for your love and support during our hardship.



Bevin and Jillian Wenke

WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CLUBS: WALLA GUM SWAMP

Written by John Borchert and Françoise McPherson. Photos: John Borchert & Walla Walla Public School

Background information

Gum Swamp is located 2 kms north of Walla Walla and is considered to be a nationally significant wetland of approximately 458 hectares listed in the National Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. It consists of River Red Gum swamp land and Grassy Box woodland (Yellow and Grey Box). The Red River Gums are large mature trees (one of the oldest trees in the swamp has been estimated at 1200 years) with nesting hollows providing nesting opportunities for many species of animals. The undergrowth consists of native grasses, rushes and sedges with aquatic plants (Nardoo and water ribbons) being prolific during flood years. Petries Creek flows through the swamp and with reeds and rushes along the banks, the creek is a haven for nesting water birds. Petries creek flows into the dam (which used to be the town's water supply) in the middle of the swamp and the water then flows out into Billabong creek.

Gum Swamp is home to 'common' animals such as wombats, echidnas, Eastern grey kangaroos, possums

(ringtails and brushtails), Eastern long-necked turtles, water dragons, skinks, blue-tongued lizards, brown snakes, goannas and all the same bird species that frequent our backyards. However, there are also many threatened species living there such as Grey-Crowned Babbler, Grey Fantail, Brown Tree Creeper and Squirrel Gliders. In flood years when the swamp is full of water, visiting animals can include the White-bellied Sea Eagle, Fishing Bat, Brolga, herons, spoonbills, Ibis and Black Swan. Apart from plants and animals, fungi and lichen also grow at the swamp. Recreational activities at Gum Swamp include bird watching, bushwalking, horse riding and canoeing.

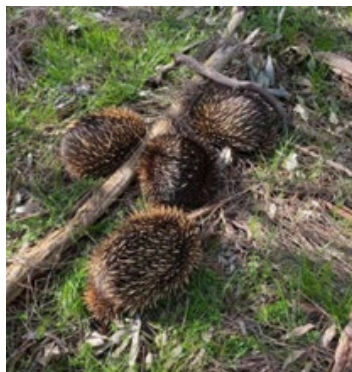
Over the years the Gum Swamp Committee has had a focus on managing the biodiverse ecology of the swamp with a focus on Squirrel Gliders and other threatened species in the swamp. While these are still very much on the agenda, there are also a number of culturally significant trees located within the reserve and evidence of a rich heritage which needs to be preserved.



The shared path from Walla Walla township to the picnic area next to the swamp has provided an amazing focus on the reserve. Also taking time to look at Walla Walla's water tower art certainly can highlight the significance of the area. It is well worth taking the time to visit such a phenomenal place.



Continued over page>>



When was the group started and how many members were there originally?

Of the various community groups and clubs in Walla Walla that add to the wonderful livability and growth of this town, there is one group that has taken on the task of protecting and promoting the amazing reserve called the 'Walla Walla Gum Swamp'. The Walla Walla Gum Swamp Management Committee is made up of a number of keen volunteers, consisting of a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer along with a number of general committee members. It is possible that the original committee was formed earlier than 2004 but there are minutes kept from 2004. Therefore, the committee to manage Gum Swamp has been convening for more than 20 years. Office bearers and general committee members numbers were similar to today.

What is the function/goal of this group?

Managing and preserving the native biodiversity of Gum Swamp flora and fauna is the aim of this committee. This means keeping invasive weeds at bay and controlling pest animals such as foxes and rabbits. Recently, fallow deer have been sighted within the Gum Swamp reserve and Cameron Odewahn attended a feral animal management workshop in Orange to learn more about how Gum Swamp pests can be exterminated.

Gum Swamp committee members attend working bees to fix boundary fences, spray weeds, put up nest

boxes for squirrel gliders and educate visiting school children about the trees of Aboriginal significance, biodiversity etc. The photo below shows Steve and Liz from Murray Local Land Services at Gum Swamp demonstrating different methods of trapping and eradication of pest animals (shown here fumigating rabbit warrens) in 2015 to year 6 students from Walla Public School.



St Paul's College students use Gum Swamp for biology lessons and there are squirrel glider spotting nights organised by Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre to get an idea of squirrel glider numbers. Art groups have used the Gum Swamp as inspiration for their paintings and drawings.



Who are the executive position holders?

Cameron Odewahn is the Chairperson and John Borchert is the secretary. David Paech is Vice Chairperson and Julie Barber is the Treasurer.

How many current members are there?

In addition to the office bearers of the committee, there are a further eight general committee members.

How often do members meet?

The group meets three to four times per year and is a Section 355 committee working under the guidance of the Greater Hume Council (GHC).



Continued over page>>

WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CLUBS: **What are the biggest achievements, community contributions etc by this group?**

In the last twelve months, there have been various groups taking an interest in the reserve. One in particular are the Albury Wodonga Field Naturalist Club, who have sighted a number of vulnerable bird species and resulting in the initiation of a Standardised Bird Survey. Some of the sightings have been of the Flame and Scarlet Robins (photo shows the threatened Flame Robin), the Grey Crowned Babbler and recently a juvenile Nankeen Night Heron.



Other achievements have been:

1. Lobbying and liaising with GHC for construction of the shared walking/ cycling path connecting Gum Swamp with the Walla township;
2. Removal of the top barbed wire from the Southern and Eastern boundary fences and replacing it with plain wire to ensure squirrel gliders and kangaroos don't get ensnared by the barbs;

CLUBS: **WALLA GUM SWAMP [CONT'D]**

3. Liaising with the silo art committee to get Gum Swamp animals painted on the Walla water tower;
4. Holding a photographic competition and exhibition in 2016 of Gum Swamp flora and fauna and recreational activities;
5. Creation of a tourist brochure of Gum Swamp featuring some of the photos from the exhibition.

What is planned for the future?

There are number of projects underway; some simply involve monitoring, such as the population of kangaroos in the reserve, but other projects need more immediate action, such as the management of weeds. In addition to this, the committee is looking at initiating a Cultural Heritage Survey in order to make its rich cultural significance known officially. Eventually it is hoped to have an information board installed near Gum Swamp entrance with information for visitors about Gum Swamp's flora and fauna. The Walla Walla Community Development Committee is also trying to get GHC to install bins and benches to sit on along the walking track to Gum Swamp.

Are new members wanted and how do interested people join?

Members of the community are certainly encouraged to take an interest in the Gum Swamp Reserve and are welcome to be a part of the management committee. There is also a Facebook group called Walla Walla Gum Swamp Wanderings, which people are welcome to join. This group

also helps to promote the committee's activities and highlights the biodiverse ecology of the Walla Walla Gum Swamp.

Please note that when visiting Gum Swamp, all native animals and plants are protected. This includes snakes! Collection of firewood, using firearms and use of motorcycles is also strictly prohibited. There are no bins along the walking track nor at the swamp entrances so please take your rubbish home with you.

References: [Gum Swamp Reserve Walla Walla - The Murray - Surrounds | VisitNSW.com](#); [Gum Swamp Reserve \(Walla Walla\) Management Committee - Ecoportal](#); [Who lives in Walla Gum Swamp Reserve? \(wirraminna.org.au\)](#); <https://www.envirostories.com.au/wp-content/uploads/pdf/2015081WallaWallaGumSwampReserve.pdf>



Photos show lichen and fungi growing on tree trunks and Gum Swamp when it is dry.

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