

GOOGONIAN GAZETTE

**SPORTS
PRECINCT**

GETS PUMPED

RURAL
FIRE SERVICE
OPEN DAY

Saturday 19 October

KITEFEST
FATHER'S DAY

**TIME
CAPSULE**
CONTRIBUTIONS



A MESSAGE FROM MALCOLM

GOOGONG'S SENIOR PROJECT DIRECTOR

I'm pleased to report that approval has finally been granted for the signalised intersection of Bunyip Drive with Old Cooma Road so you should see some action there shortly.

Negotiations and the seeking of approvals for the various elements of the Town Centre is ongoing and we hope to see construction commencing in early 2025. Good progress is being made and we hope to have something more definitive to report in the next newsletter.

There are now about 2,750 homes occupied, with the population standing at around 7,900.

After 10 years as Project Director for Googong this is my last development update as I move into the next phase of my life.

It has been a privilege to work on the creation of Googong and the most rewarding aspect has been to see the community evolve and thrive.

It has been a big team effort and I'm confident that I'm leaving Googong in the safe hands of our team.

Sincerely
Malcolm Leslie



RURAL FIRE SERVICE OPEN DAY

10am–2pm, Saturday 19 October at Bunyip Park, Wellsvale Drive, Googong

Googong's Rural Fire Service Open Day is a fascinating adventure for the young and the young-at-heart. Our local crew from the Jerrabomberra Creek Rural Fire Brigade will be on hand at Googong with lots of free family fun.

Climb the big red fire trucks or have a go with the hoses under the watchful eye of our firies. Try the emergency gear on for size and share some of the amazing stories from our local heroes. If you've always dreamed of being a firefighter don't miss your chance to have a go.

Everyone is invited to this great day out with live music, food vendors, and truckloads of free family fun at Googong. See googong.net for details.

A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN PEET AND MIRVAC

 GOOGONG

10 YEARS OF BELONGING

KiteFest

IT'S A SKY FULL OF FUN AT GOOGONG!



September 2024

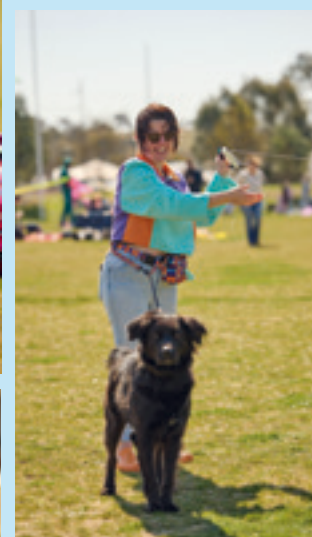
Googong's annual KiteFest drew a record crowd to Rockley Oval for Father's Day, marking another successful year for the popular event. Hundreds of attendees enjoyed a day of kite flying, and free family-friendly activities.

This year's KiteFest carried an extra layer of significance as the community marked a decade since welcoming its first residents. The event served as a testament to the strong foundations and connected community that have taken root in Googong over the past ten years.

Googong Project Director, Malcolm Leslie, said it was another successful event for local families, many of whom have celebrated Father's Day at KiteFest since its inception.

"Reaching this ten-year milestone for the Googong community is incredibly special. KiteFest embodies the heart of what we set out to create here. It's a place where families build memories, celebrate milestones together, and feel a sense of belonging. That's why hosting it on Father's Day feels so fitting. It's a chance to spend time together and say thanks to all the fathers out there," he said.

KiteFest, which has become synonymous with Father's Day, is just one part of the robust event calendar at Googong. It joins other much-loved events such as the Rural Fire Services Open Day (October), the Googong Christmas Carols and Markets (December), and Googfest (February).





New Tricks for Googong

Googong joint developers, Peet and Mirvac, recently unveiled a brand-new, asphalt pump track as part of its growing list of fitness amenities in the township, offering an adrenaline-pumping experience for BMX & mountain bike riders of all ages and skill levels.

The pump track, located on Glenrock Drive (near Austin Grove), stretches a combined 2,600 sq metres and includes a beginner track (62m) and an intermediate track (250m). With bumps and rollers ranging from 500mm to over 1 metre, it promises an exhilarating ride for everyone, from young children finding their balance to seasoned riders looking to push their limits.

The grand opening of the facility included a launch event consisting of live music and food vendors, alongside demonstrations by professional mountain bike group Dynamic Motivation, who delivered skills workshops to novice riders to help them get the best out of the track.

The asphalt surface ensures a smooth, all-weather riding experience with minimal maintenance, allowing riders to enjoy the track year-round. The pump track represents a significant investment in the community, with construction and landscaping costs totalling approximately \$500,000. It was designed by Dirtz, a team of accomplished cyclists who specialise in the design and construction of off-road cycling facilities.

Brett Barnes, Dirtz Director and Australian ranked BMX & mountain bike athlete said, "The most important component of our construction process is our base course rider testing. We have based our grading of each area of the track upon the International Mountain Biking Association trail rating guidelines, these are not specific to pump tracks but they examine the level of difficulty compared to trail rating. The Googong Pump Jump Track is one of the best tracks in NSW, as it caters to all ages and all skills."

Googong Project Director, Malcolm Leslie, said:

"The pump track is a fantastic addition to Googong's sporting and activity facilities. As Googong continues to grow, we are committed to creating vibrant, active spaces that cater to all ages and abilities. The track is a testament to that commitment, offering a space where the community can come together, challenge themselves, and most importantly have fun."

The new pump track is the permanent solution to the temporary facility that opened on Heazlett Street in 2020 and will sit alongside the township's impressive sports precinct. At completion, the sports precinct will also be home to six netball courts, an indoor sports and aquatic centre, eight tennis courts, seven ovals (including an athletics track), a skate park, putt putt golf, frisbee golf, along with BBQ facilities, toilets and parking. The precinct is also proposed to include the Queanbeyan Whites Sports and Recreation Club.

Mic Longhurst MTB Instructor and CEO of Dynamic Motivation said, "Pump tracks are growing in popularity as a great way to get both kids and adults out riding bikes, developing skills and improving fitness. This track is the first of this quality in the region and will attract riders from the local community and across Canberra to come and ride. It's a great asset to the Googong area."

"The Googong Pump Jump Track is one of the best tracks in NSW, as it caters to all ages and all skills."

Brett Barnes, Dirtz Director and Australian ranked BMX and mountain bike athlete.



Googong's Sports Precinct



NEW Pump Track

The pump track, located on Glenrock Drive (near Austin Grove), stretches a combined 2,600 sq metres and includes a beginner track (62m) and an intermediate track (250m). With bumps and rollers ranging from 500mm to over 1 metre, it promises an exhilarating ride for everyone, from young children finding their balance to seasoned riders looking to push their limits. **Free.**



NEW Putt Putt Golf

Googong's mini Putt Putt Golf course is open and accessible year-round. You'll find the course on Hegarty Street in Googong. BYO putter and balls. **Free.**



NEW Frisbee Golf

Frisbee Golf is located on Wellsville Drive across the road from the skate park, and adjacent to the putt putt course (on Hegarty Street). BYO frisbee or drop into the Sales Centre at 5 Glenrock Drive and pick yourself up a frisbee to keep. **Free.**

Farewell to Googong Senior Project Director, Malcolm Leslie

On behalf of the Googong community, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Malcolm Leslie who has been actively involved in the Googong project for 25 years, including the last ten as Senior Project Director.

Malcolm, better known as Mal, has decided it is now time to focus on a life away from work, and he will be sorely missed by the Peet and Mirvac joint venture team.

Some of you may have noticed the 'Mal tree' at the end of Sunset Place in Montgomery Rise, Googong. The project team planted this oak tree to mark Mal's 20th anniversary with Peet. It was planted as testament to the legacy he leaves Googonians – celebrating his deep vision and strong leadership in town master planning and delivery, and his influence as an exceptional mentor to many who have learned so much from Mal over the years.



While Googong might be Mal's favourite project and is undeniably an honourable life legacy, he has worked in land development on almost 20 other projects across the ACT, NSW and South Australia. Many of these projects are notable for their environmental initiatives, and Googong is no exception. These projects have won multiple awards across numerous disciplines including environmental, master planning, marketing and community.

As a keen cyclist and former outward-bound instructor, Malcolm takes particular interest in the environment. In his 'downtime' he was convenor of the Banksia Street Wetlands Carers' group,



restoring a wetland area in Canberra's inner north, and assisting other groups to set up similar ventures across Canberra.

For nine years, Mal has been a volunteer for the Early Morning Centre (EMC) in Canberra's CBD, serving hot breakfasts to those experiencing social isolation and homelessness. In 2018, Mal combined his passion for cycling and giving back to the community, riding 4200km across Australia from Fremantle to Tathra and raising \$28,900 for his efforts.

It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated, passionate and professional individual. Thank you, Malcolm Leslie, for your enormous contribution to the township of Googong, to the project team at Peet/ Mirvac, and to the communities in which we live.

Sincerely

Samantha Remmers
GOOGONG COMMUNITY MANAGER
community@googong.net

**Strong and steadfast is the Oak Tree
Tall are its branches, and deep are its roots
Wisdom it lends, and long is its shadow
Its branches support and inspire us higher
– A focus and marker for all**

WANT TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Join the Googong Residents' Association

The Googong Residents' Association Inc. (GRA) is your gateway to actively shaping our suburb's future. Our dedicated committee of volunteers works on behalf of our members to influence local decisions, from dealings with the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council to collaboration with developers and community groups. We're committed to fostering unity, enhancing community spirit, and supporting local engagement across all areas—from sports and social clubs to local facilities.

Join us at our regular meetings and **'Around the Ground Information Sessions – Googong,'** where we feature guest speakers and provide updates on key community issues. These events are excellent opportunities to stay informed and engaged. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the local social media group for dates and details.

By joining us, you'll be part of a vibrant network driving meaningful change. Ready to get involved?

Contact us at googongra@gmail.com or like our Facebook page at [facebook.com/GoogongRA](https://www.facebook.com/GoogongRA).

Together, let's build a stronger, more connected Googong!



**2026
ENROLMENTS
OPEN**

Limited places in 2025

K-6 | 7-10 | 11-12

EVERYDAY IS OPEN DAY!

Call to book a tour
(02) 6154 9400

Dream Discover Grow

for more info

www.googongschool.nsw.edu.au





ICON WATER WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER.

As a Googonian, you know how precious the dam and foreshores are for our community. The catchment area supplies a vital source of drinking water for our region.

This is why it is so important we work together to protect our area's remarkable characteristics — including the quality of our drinking water.

There are a few things we each need to put into action to ensure we can continue enjoying this precious resource for generations to come.

So, next time you're at the foreshores:

- Only use small electrically powered boats on the reservoir. For your safety, please make sure your battery is fully charged before every trip, and always carry a backup.
- Keep your watercraft clean, especially when coming from another water source. This will stop your boat spreading harmful bacteria and aquatic weeds into our waters.
- Do not swim at the foreshores and please be mindful when launching your watercraft. Harmful pathogens can contaminate our drinking water when we don't stay out of it!
- Watercrafts are not permitted to land on any banks north of the disabled car park [except for the Tin-Hut Kayak Launch Area].
- NSW Maritime conducts watercraft inspections at Googong Foreshores, so please ensure you familiarise yourself with NSW requirements.
- Dogs are not permitted at the foreshores, including the dam. They can harm the natural environment.

When enjoying the Googong Foreshores this summer, remember the dam and rivers are currently very high and fast flowing. Be mindful that heavy rain can cause strong currents and bring debris to the waterway so please be responsible when using our waterways.

For more information on how to use this area, please visit the ACT Parks and Conservation website: www.parks.act.gov.au/find-a-park/googong-foreshores



GOOGONG 10TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

To commemorate our tenth anniversary, we plan to bury a Googong 10th Anniversary Time Capsule at the top of Nangi Pimble lookout in November, with the expectation that it would be opened again in February 2034 on our 20th anniversary.

Nangi Pimble looks across the township and takes in the beautiful vista towards the Molonglo Ranges, that is so uniquely Googonian.

We are working with the Googong Public School and Googong Anglican School to collect some material to include, and we welcome all Googonians to contribute their ideas too by emailing them to community@googong.net

We also encourage Googonians to consider writing a confidential letter to themselves that we would return to you when the time capsule is opened again in another ten years.

If you would like to take part in this interesting exercise, please place your letter in a sealed DL envelope marked as indicated and drop it into our Googong Sales Centre, 5 Glenrock Drive Googong. We're open 10am–5pm Saturday to Wednesday, and 10am–4pm Thursday and Friday.

Please be sure to drop these to the Sales Centre by Friday 18 October.



INJURED WILDLIFE – WILDCARE QUEANBEYAN

ARTICLE BY BEC QUINN

Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc is a volunteer organisation that rescues sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife. We then raise and rehabilitate the animals under our care for release back into their natural habitat.

If you find native wildlife needing assistance, you simply need to telephone the Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966 and a rescuer will be located to assess the animal and determine the best course of action for it. It can be helpful if you are able to take a photo from a safe distance without causing unnecessary stress to the animal. Remember, injured animals can behave in unpredictable ways.

Wildcare Queanbeyan is a not-for-profit charity which operates 24/7. It relies on donations to ensure the continued operation of the rescue and rehabilitation services.



If you would like to donate, the account details are as follows:

Account name: Wildcare Queanbeyan Public Fund

BSB: 062593

Account Number: 1021 6803

Please let us know that you have donated by emailing treasurer@wildcare.com.au so that we can send you a receipt.

Please help us by adding the Wildcare Helpline number, 6299 1966, to your list of contacts. You never know when you might need it, and you might help save a life!



Enrolling Now

Do you have a child or know a family with a child starting school next year?

Googong Public School is accepting enrolments for 2025. Please scan the QR codes below or contact the school on 02 6128 2100 for more information.



Inspiring excellence within an inclusive,
future focused learning environment.

UPCOMING EVENTS: **SAVE THE DATE**



Googong Playgroup

9.30am–10.30am Friday mornings (during school term)

Googong Community Centre. Corner Gorman Drive and McPhail Way Googong.

Free to ACT Playgroup Members.



Rural Fire Service Open Day

10am–2pm Saturday 19 October 2024

Bunyip Park, Wellsvale Drive Googong

Free family fun where kids (and adults) can climb the fire trucks, play with the fire hoses, and dress up in fire gear. Meet representatives of your local Rural Fire Service, Parks and Wildlife Rangers, Googong Dam's ICON Water, Googong Landcare, and more. Live music. Food vendors.



Googong Christmas Carols & Markets

6-8pm Saturday 7 December 2024

Bunyip Park, Wellsvale Drive Googong

Free family fun with carols – just carols. Sing along with the Canberra City Brass Band and the Queanbeyan Choir (song books provided). Browse the Christmas themed market stalls, and BYO picnic or enjoy the food vendors available. If you would like to host a market stall, email enquiries@googong.net.



Googfest 2025

5-9pm Saturday 8 February 2025

We are finalising our line-up for next year's free live music festival, Googfest 2025, which will once again be held at Googong's aptly named Rockley Oval.

This is a not-to-be-missed event so pop it in your diaries now and invite your friends and family to join.

Stay on the ball – join the Googong resident database to avoid missing out on any resident-only events.



Email community@googong.net to update your details.

Be sure to whitelist emails from enquiries@googong.net and community@googong.net so they appear in your main inbox.



10 YEARS OF BELONGING

A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN PEET AND MIRVAC

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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