

SAMANTHA JADE HEADLINES GOOGFEST

GOOGONG'S AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD

BUNYIP DRIVE

TENNIS CENTRE

CONSTRUCTION



#### A MESSAGE FROM GLEN FREW, GOOGONG EXECUTIVE

Welcome to our first issue for 2025. I have been working with the Googong team behind the scenes for several years and am excited to take a more hands-on role into 2025.

#### **GOOGFEST 2025**

Googfest 2025 was held on Saturday 15 February drawing thousands to the township to enjoy an evening of free live music. Headlining the festivities was popstar Samantha Jade, who delivered a show-stopping performance filled with her chart-topping hits including "What You've Done to Me". Jade captivated the audience with her incredible voice and stage presence which included energetic dance performances.

The event, which has become a must-see event in the annual calendar, delivered something for everyone with acts spanning a range of genres. DJ and rapper, Matthew Charles and his band got everybody dancing with the biggest party hits. Meanwhile, Liam James and Claudia Tetreault-Percy, from blues and soul band Last Call also brought their A-game, ensuring a diverse musical experience for all.

#### **GOOGONG COMMUNITY WINS AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD**

In January, Googong's much-loved live music festival, Googfest, took home the Australia Day Award for Queanbeyan-Palerang Region Community Event of the Year for its 2024 event. The award recognises Googfest's significant contribution to the Queanbeyan-Palerang community, honouring local initiatives and leaders that positively impact the region.

The 2024 event that secured the award for Googong was a country-themed extravaganza that drew a crowd of over 6,000 people from across the ACT region. Attendees enjoyed an unforgettable evening of entertainment featuring ARIA award-winner Travis Collins, Golden Guitar Award nominee Hayley Jensen, and local Canberra artist Dana Hassall.

One of the key factors to winning this award was Googfest's commitment to being an accessible event for all ages. Not only is the event free but complimentary bus services and the option to bring your own food and drink help reduce the financial barriers that often prevent many from enjoying live music.

#### **EVENTS PROGRAM**

Our extensive events program play a vital role in shaping the strong community we envisioned and we invite you to save the dates for our upcoming events in 2025 (see back page). Residents are also encouraged to keep their details up-to-date to ensure they don't miss out.

#### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The construction of the signalised intersection of Bunyip Drive with Old Cooma Road is well underway and should be opening in the next couple of months, marking a big milestone for the Township, completing the third and final access to Old Cooma Road.

The Googong Hotel, adjacent to Bunyip Park, are aiming to commence their construction in the next few months while the Googong Convenience Centre (7-11 petrol station, McDonalds, KFC, Reject Shop and Childcare Centre) have commenced construction and hope to open in late 2025. Negotiations are continuing for the main retail shops (centring on Coles) of the Googong Town Centre. Good progress is being made and we hope to have something more definitive to report in the next newsletter.

The DA for the Googong Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre was approved late last year with our attention now turning to detailed design. It is anticipated that a construction certificate application will be submitted toward the end of this year.

Landscape construction work is well underway adjacent to the future Googong West Village Centre. Works include a shelter with BBQ facilities, bioretention basins and footpaths connecting to the existing footpath network. The works are aiming to be completed and open to the public in May.

Construction will soon commence on the second stage of Common South, including the Googong Tennis Centre. Works include carparking, playground, six full sized tennis courts, one grand slam sized court, dedicated hot shots/pickleball/padel tennis courts, rebound wall, spectator seating and shelters.

The NSW Government advises that the Googong High School master plan is complete, which determines the location of the new high school buildings. They are now completing the schematic design which will detail the form of buildings and functionality of internal spaces. Their designs have been worked on in consultation with architects and the Project Reference Group (PRG) which includes representatives from the community and educational leadership in the region.

The NSW Government have released a construction tender to appoint a building contractor for the high school which will be awarded in the coming months. The high school is projected to open for term 1, 2027.

We have recently achieved a huge milestone with the sale of the 3,000<sup>th</sup> lot at Googong. There are around 2,850 homes occupied, with the population standing at around 8,100. Thanks to all the Googong project team and residents who have shared this journey.

Sincerely **Glen Frew**GOOGONG EXECUTIVE

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Left to Right: Hon Kristy McBain (MP), Cr Kenrick Winchester (QPRC Mayor), Samantha Remmers (Googong Community Manager). Photo Genevieve Hunt Photography

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A huge congratulations goes to Samantha Remmers, our Community Manager at Googong. Samantha has managed the Googfest event since it was launched in 2015 and was the one to accept the award on behalf of the Peet/Mirvac Joint Venture. Congratulations also to Caroline Whitelum, State Marketing Manager, who initiated the concept as a key platform for the Googong marketing strategy back in 2014. Community development initiatives have been previously recognised with Googong winning the prestigious UDIA NSW Award for Marketing Excellence in 2020.



# Googlest 2025

## snapshot

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PHOTOS: Lightbulb Studio

































House and Land Package \$1,097,000\*

2 • Lot No. 2408 • Lot Size 540m<sup>2</sup>



House and Land Package \$1,074,200\*

Lot No. 2213
 Lot Size 337m<sup>2</sup>

2.5

### Googong Residents' Association Inc.

The executive committee and members hope everyone had a wonderful festive Christmas and New Year. The committee looks forward to working with its members in 2025 to help grow this wonderful community we all share.

The Googong Residents' Association Inc. (GRA) represents its members in matters that impact Googong residents. The GRA executive is a committee of volunteer residents that work to advocate member interests to various entities such as Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, government bodies, the township's developers, community and corporate organisations.

The association aims to create a sense of unity and inspire community spirit, as well as develop, encourage, and foster community engagement among residents, sporting clubs, facilities, and other social interests.

If you are interested in the future of our suburb and you would like to become a member or committee member of the Googong Residents' Association, please email Dean Martin at **googongra@gmail.com**. Please like our Facebook group at **facebook.com/GoogongRA** 



# WALK, RUN OR RIDE. IT'S GREAT TO BE OUTSIDE.

We Googonians love the great outdoors — so it's rather lucky for us that we have the trails of Googong Foreshores right on our doorstep.

There are trails of varying length for all levels of experience and fitness, so anyone can enjoy the beautiful natural environments and views that make the Googong Dam Nature Reserve so unique.

So, what are you waiting for? Choose the walk, run or ride that's right for you and we'll see you out on trails!

We have prepared a comprehensive brochure and map of run and mountain bike trails including distances and times. Grab your copy of the Googong Dam's Nature Trails brochure from the Googong Sales Centre. Open 7 days, 5 Glenrock Drive Googong.









#### Little Feet, Big Dreams: Lil' Groovers comes to Googong!

Exciting news for Googong's youngest movers and shakers! Empire Performing Arts (EPA Dance) is bringing its popular Lil' Groovers program to town, offering a magical introduction to dance for children aged 1-5 years.

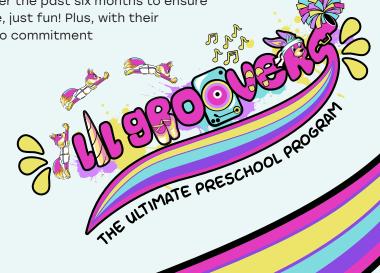
Designed to spark confidence, coordination, and creativity, Lil' Groovers provides a fun and nurturing space where little ones can explore movement, music, and self-expression. Whether they love twirling in ballet, bouncing to jazz beats, or tackling ninja-style challenges, there's a class to suit every tiny dancer.

With classes running six mornings a week across Googong, Bungendore, and Queanbeyan, this carefully crafted program has been developed over the past six months to ensure high-quality, age-appropriate instruction. No pressure, just fun! Plus, with their 'Love it or it's free' trial, families can try a class with no commitment if their little one isn't ready.

Beyond preschool dance, EPA Dance also offers hundreds of classes each week for students aged 5+, covering a wide range of styles including ballet, jazz, hip-hop, tap, aerial silks, and more.

#### Ready to give it a go?

Visit epadance.com to learn more and book a trial class today!



#### 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.



**ANZAC Day Dawn Service** 

Dawn (5.45am) Friday 25 April 2025

ANZAC Memorial, Bunyip Park, Wellsvale Drive Googong



#### **Kitefest (Father's Day)**

11am-2pm Sunday 7 September 2025

Rockley Oval, Googong

BYO picnic (and kite) or enjoy a gourmet burger and sausage sizzle from the vendors. Live DJ Music, plus giant kites on display, and great family fun. Free.



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.



#### **Rural Fire Service Open Day**

October 2025

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. Free.



#### **Christmas Party**

13 December 2025

Bunyip Park, Wellsvale Drive Googong

Googong is set to shimmer this year with a Christmas Carols Party like we've never seen! The Baker Boys Band are set to light up the stage with a their polished performance that is set to be a magical night for the whole family!

Carol books are provided and everyone is welcome. Bring a picnic or buy a treat from the food stalls. Free.

Stay on the ball – join the Googona 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.

