

The GRETA BUNYIP

"YOUR GRETA & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER"

gretabunyip@gmail.com

EDITION NO: 55

Feb 2020

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

- Feb Sat 29th** Bushfire Planning Workshop
10-12.00 Outdoor School 15 Mile Creek
- March Tue 3rd** Friends of the Bunyip meeting
7.30pm Greta Valley P.S.
- Sun 22nd** Introduction to Beekeeping
6.00pm Greta Hansonville Hall

GRETA VALLEY P.S.

Foundation Students

Greta Valley welcomes 6 new Foundation students - Ted Clancy, Tyler Doig-Marshall, Emily Hodgson, Tom Lambert, Lewis Nicholls and Lilly Stevenson. All have settled in extremely quickly and are feeling right at home.

Swimming

All our students will be participating in our annual swimming program at the Benalla Aquatic Centre. These lessons are held weekly and will go for all of Term 1.

Staffing

We welcomed some new staff members at the beginning of the year. Julie Sinnett has joined our team as our Foundation/1/2 teacher, Sarah Patterson is our Literacy Mentor and we also welcomed Tanya Boyle as our new Business Manager.

Camps

Our Grade 6 students are already excited about our upcoming cluster Sailing Camp. This will be for all the cluster Grade 6 students and is held at the Rye Sailing Club for four days in March.

FOUNDATION CLASS OF 2020





Queensland Fruit Fly

Now is the time to purchase replacement trap baits for your Queensland Fruit Fly traps. We are also offering netting bags for protecting your tomatoes and other crops at a cost of \$1 a bag. Products are available for sale at the Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre.

The following products are available:

- Male monitoring traps - \$5 per unit
- Female lure traps - \$5 per unit
- Male and female refill kits - \$3 per unit
- Exclusion netting (6m x 6m) - \$15 per unit
- Fruit protection bags (30cm x 30cm) - \$1 each.

The gel and baits in the traps have a 3 month lifespan, so if you put your traps out in Oct/Nov, they will now need refreshing. You should continue controlling fruit fly right through until April when the weather cools, to reduce numbers in the following Spring.

Grant funding

Funding is available to support projects that provide shade and shelter for your stock. Fencing reimbursement at rates of \$4000/ha, with up to \$3.50 per plant and guard. Expressions of Interest close 28 February 2020 for sites that will be planted this winter.

Introduction to beekeeping & Annual General Meeting

Sunday 22nd March, 6pm @ Greta Hansonville Hall

We invite you to join us to hear our guest presenter David Briggs provide a fascinating introduction to the work of beekeeping in commercial agriculture. David will cover the biology of honey bees, the role of bees in agriculture and the interactions between beekeeping and the natural environment. Honey production in Australia is about 80% dependent on native [predominantly Eucalypt] flora. He will discuss the sporadic flowering patterns of our Eucalypts and how this has shaped beekeeping in Australia. For catering purposes, please RSVP at www.tinyurl.com/BeesAGM2020 or call Sally by 18th March. This is a FREE event supported by the Victorian Landcare Grants Program.

For further information about any of our events or projects, please contact Sally Day on 0437 136 162 or email sally.day@gretalandcare.org.au.

YOUNGER'S LAWN AND WOOD

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2020 Greta Football & Netball Club

The 2020 Season is just around the corner and the Committee and Coaches are preparing for another exciting season and successful year.

The 2020 Greta FNC Committee is as follows:

President: Gary Hogan

Junior Vice Presidents: Julie Lewis & Tracey McKinnon

Secretary: Gigi Costenaro

Treasurers: Darren Ross, Kevin Naish & Gigi Costenaro

General Committee Members: as follows

Andy Wheelens
Brenton Bosch
David Wilson
Doug McPhie
Greg Brown
John McCarthy
Lachie McPhie
Paul Ellis
Tahsha Woods
Tayla Ramsay
Tom Fursdon
Warwick Hutchinson

2020 Coaches

Football

Senior Coach: Greg Newbold
Reserves Coaches: Jarrod Franklin

Netball

A Grade Senior Coach: Loren Gathercole
B Grade Co-Coaches: Tayla Ramsay & Netty Atteridge
B Reserves Coach: Ashton Tanner
C Grade/Under 17's Coach: Brooke Lewis
Under 15's Coach: Warwick Hutchinson

The North Eastern Ensign (Benalla), Friday, 9 January, 1914, page 3 Supplied by Gary Dean

Bush Fires at Greta.

SERIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

The torrid heat of Monday and Tuesday, 20th and 30th ult., ended in a bush fire on Tuesday. It broke out (says the Wangaratta Despatch) on Mr M. Nolan's property, and, fed by the heavily grassed country, soon, spread over the adjoining paddocks sweeping all before it. Altogether nearly 3,000 acres of grass and crops have been destroyed, a very heavy loss being Mr George Smith, Greta, who lost two stacks of wheat and oats and 70 acres of wheat standing ready for the harvester. Mr Carmichael lost 30 acres of stooked crop, besides grass, and the following have lost grass and fencing:-E. Kearney, M. O'Brien, A. McKenzie, W. O'Brien, G. Toakley, D. McNab, H. Carmichael, G. Patterson. There was a large gathering of residents got together to do battle with the flames. The heat was terrific and the wind and long grass gave them a busy time over most of the day. There is no doubt that a much greater calamity was narrowly escaped. By the greatest good fortune the wind changed about 4 o'clock and a thunderstorm passed over the burning country. The rain was light, but enough to check the flames. The fire ran before the northerly wind from Nolan's at Laceby South to nearly opposite the Greta cemetery, about six miles. Then the wind changed to the south and drove the flame back over new country almost to the point which the fire began.

At about 11.30 Mr Wm Bowdern noticed a fire start on Mr Denis O'Keefe's property at Laceby. It sprang up close to the Wangaratta-Greta road and is believed to have been caused by a passer by dropping a lighted match or a spark from a cigarette or pipe. Mr Denis Bowdern, with his son W. Bowdern, drove to the spot, and were quickly joined by Messrs Denis O'Keefe, M. Duffy, M. Nolan, Pat O'Keefe Jun., T. Last, G. Saunders, jun., and after a great battle they succeeded in extinguishing the outbreak after a few acres of grass had been burnt. They were in the act of congratulating themselves on their success, when a dense cloud of smoke was observed rising in the direction of Mr M. Nolan's. They quickly realised that another outbreak had occurred, and all hands at once proceeded to the spot. Lightning had struck a dry tree on Mr Nolan's property and fired the grass. Fanned by the strong breeze blowing, the flames spread with lightning like rapidity, travelling a distance of five miles south in about half an hour. The long grass was dry after the recent hot weather, and the flames fairly rolled through it, consuming all before them.

NARROW ESCAPE OF CREAMERY.

From M. Nolan's the fire spread to the east and the west as well as going south.. Spreading into Mr. D. O'Keefe's paddock; the fire burnt about 400 acres of grass and some fencing. Later the fire got into another property of the same owner, where Mr Yeaman, manager of the Benalla creamery is on the shares with him, and burnt another 400 acres. The flames ran up to within a few yards of Mr Yeaman's residence and a stack of hay, while there was only 30 yards separating the flames and the creamery building.

Mr Michael Nolan, on whose property the fire started, lost 700 acres of grass, and the fire reached to within a hundred yards or so of his home. New fencing was destroyed.

HOMES IN GREAT DANGER.

Miss K. Nolan was a heavy loser, about 300 acres of grass being consumed. The fire burnt up to the side of the house, but willing workers saved the building. Out-houses were destroyed and four trees in bearing ruined. Forty head of stock running in the paddock saved themselves by taking shelter at the dam. She also had a large quantity of new wire-netted fencing ruined.

Mr Patrick Kearney, jun., with Mrs Kearney and family, and Mrs Keenan (mother of Mrs Kearney) had a most exciting time. The flames rushed down on them in a few minutes, sweeping away 400 acres of grass and destroying four stacks of oats (about 50 tons in all). The situation became so serious that the family abandoned their home and drove off in their buggy along the road. The flames ran along the grass going up to the sides of the house, and licked the walls. Creepers growing on the verandah were scorched, but fortunately the building did not ignite. The bridge spanning the Fifteen Mile Creek opposite Mr Kearney's home was fired, and burnt to the water.

Mrs Kearney was almost overcome by the terrible danger that threatened them but thankful at having her home left standing.

At Mr M. J. O'Brien's another great battle was fought, the flames threatening the home, and burning the grass up to within a few yards of it. The harness shed ignited, but the flames were extinguished after a small quantity of harness had been damaged. Mr O'Brien lost about 300 acres of grass, and a quantity of new and old fencing was damaged. Mr Wm. O'Brien had 330 acres of grass burnt, also fencing, and a few acres of crop were also consumed in the flames. Sweeping on the fire went through Mr McKenzie's paddock on to Mrs J. Carmichael's, destroying some acres of crop and a straw stack. A cultivation paddock saved Mr Toakley's homestead property. Mr J. Chambers had 300 acres of grass paddock traversed by the flames, and also lost a small quantity of oats. On Mr F. French's property, where Messrs Vincent and Coleman were working on the shares, a stack of oats and 250 acres of grass were burnt.

NARROW ESCAPES.

A fine wheat crop, still standing, and owned by Messrs Griffiths Bros., had a wonderful escape. The fire entered the paddock at the western corner and consumed ten acres of oats in the stooks, and then entered the wheat crop. A change in the wind caused the flames to turn, and the owners and their willing workers, succeeded in beating back the fire, after it had devoured about three acres. The crop was also attacked on the south side, but good work prevented the flames getting a strong hold. The fencing was badly damaged.

From here the great mass of flames rushed on towards Mr Geo. Patterson's property at Greta---the homestead property being untouched. The fire swept over a stubble paddock and encircled a plot where six large stacks of hay stood. By remarkable chances the stacks were not ignited. An old building on the property was destroyed, and he also lost 200 acres of grass.

STANDING CROP SWEEPED AWAY.

The fire entered the property of Cr. Geo, Smith, Greta, and rushed through a standing wheat crop of 70 acres and also burnt two stacks of hay. The homestead for a time was also in great danger of destruction.

At this stage the wind changed and carried the fire back over new country (already dealt with in the report) travelling to a point almost opposite where the fire first started.

Chain and half-chain roads, offered no resistance to the progress of the fire. Fortunately there was no westerly breeze, for had the flames crossed the main Wangaratta - Greta road the wheat crops of Messrs H, F. Saunders. T. Williams, G., Patterson, G. Smith and others would have been in great danger.

Mr H. F. Saunders, of Mundara, had a paddock of 580 acres traversed by the flames, and Mr T. E. McAuliffe had two stacks of hay consumed, besides 250 acres of grass. His homestead, too, only escaped destruction by the merest chance.

DESOLATED PADDOCKS.

The country presents a desolate and disheartening appearance, with its black mantle spreading for miles in all directions; illuminated only by flaming trees, which frequently fell with a deafening crash. Culverts were blazing, and the roads strewn with fallen and burning trees. The destruction of the Fifteen Mile Creek bridge will stop traffic on the road, but Mr Kearney will permit traffic to go through his property. The fencing destroyed will total many miles. Many of the farmers will be without grass and feed for their stock, but all are thankful that their homes were spared. The fire is perhaps the most serious that has gone through the Laceby and Greta districts.



Wangaratta & District Branch of the Country Womens Association (CWA) meets each Monday at the CWA hall, 17 Templeton Street, Wangaratta. The first Monday of each month, except January, is a general meeting to discuss branch and Association business, followed by a cuppa and chat. This meeting starts at 1.30pm. All other Mondays, we get together for various craft activities - either for our personal use or to give to deserving recipients. These days start at 10.30am and go until around 2.30pm. We also assist the Wangaratta Evening branch (they meet at 7.00pm on the third Monday of the month) with applying for grants and fundraising, to improve the facilities at the hall and support those less fortunate in our community. Contact Val McMonigle on valbillmc@bigpond.com or call 0427662382.



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Hansonville Reserve Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Hansonville Recreation Reserve Committee of Management was held on 7 December 2019.

For those new to the area, the Hansonville Recreation Reserve is located on Banksdale Road, just south from the School Road intersection.

Among the agenda items was the nomination of a new committee to take over from 14 January 2020 for a period of three years.

After nominations were received and accepted, the new Reserve Committee will be made up of Brian Graham (Chair), Cristina Perra (Secretary), Lew Trenkner (Treasurer), Paddy Delaney, David Dinning and David Tanner, as well as two new members - Ken Manton and Steve Newth.

Members also acknowledged and thanked Max Newth - a long-time Committee member - who has decided to step down from the Committee.

The Committee is continuing to work towards repairing and replicating the original fence near the entrance to the reserve, as well as erecting an information board which will display photos and the history of the reserve.

If any members of the community have any historical photos of the reserve, including any of the Hansonville Hall, the Committee would appreciate taking a look and possibly making a copy for the board. Please feel free to contact any member of the Committee or contact the Secretary, Cristina Perra, on 0418 327 695.

The Committee hopes to provide you with regular updates on their progress with this project.

BRIEFING STATEMENT

KING VALLEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

It has long been acknowledged that the Wangaratta Whitfield Road is below the required standard that we would expect of a major arterial road that services approximately half of the Rural City of Wangaratta and more importantly the major tourism attraction of the Rural city of Wangaratta, this being the King Valley.

Upgrading this major arterial road to be fit for purpose is necessary, given the vast increase of heavy and light vehicles used to access vital markets, loyal customers and necessary processors throughout Australia. In addition, there is increasing need for supplies and services to maintain businesses productivity and offerings; along with the increase in tourist numbers visiting the King Valley.

According to Tourism Northeast in 2017, the King Valley attracted 150000 visitors, and they anticipate that this will increase to over 230,000 visitors by 2022.

In 2019, the anticipated increase of 230,000 by 2022, has already been exceeded. According to Tourism Research Australia's National Visitation Survey undertaken March 2018 - March 2019, the King Valley was the fastest growing wine tourism destination in Australia, increasing by 141%

We need to act now!!

A small group of King Valley residents with the support of business owners, have decided to

embark upon a mission to develop a submission to seek government funding for a significant infrastructure project that will set the King Valley up for growth and private investment for the next 50 years.

The project has five connected elements:

1. Upgrade the Wangaratta-Whitfield Road, including the 5 km extension to Cheshunt to be fit for purpose for all users.
2. Change the name of the Wangaratta-Whitfield Road to the "King Valley Road" which is more inclusive and smart marketing.
3. Complete the construction of stage 3 of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail from Oxley to Whitfield plus the 5 km extension to Cheshunt.
4. Name the rail trail, the "Pedal 2 Prosecco". This marketing strategy is already being used for competitive bike riding events and hiring E-BIKES therefore, it would be prudent branding.
5. Commission 14 large art installations specifically to creatively reflect each of the signed stops along the rail trail and have each art installation permanently erected at each of the signed stops along the rail trail.

To give our proposal the best chance of success we plan to:

§ Implement our detailed action plan which outlines the steps, processes, tools and methods required to engage with communities, gather relevant data, evidence and support to drive the development of this infrastructure funding submission.

§ Consult and engage with all households and businesses in the King Valley.

§ Involve other Wangaratta – Whitfield Road users (workers, businesses and visiting tourists) from outside the King Valley to canvas their support and relevant information.

§ Our “Advisory Group” specifically for this project will be asked to challenge our methods and content, advise and advocate on behalf of the project.

We will be seeking to involve a large group of enthusiastic King Valley residents who are committed to this project - to help, coordinate and complete the extraordinary amount of work set out in our action plan.

For any further information about this infrastructure project or if you know of anyone able to help out, please contact

John Bridges on 0401 014997 or Chris Hazell 0466 011 868

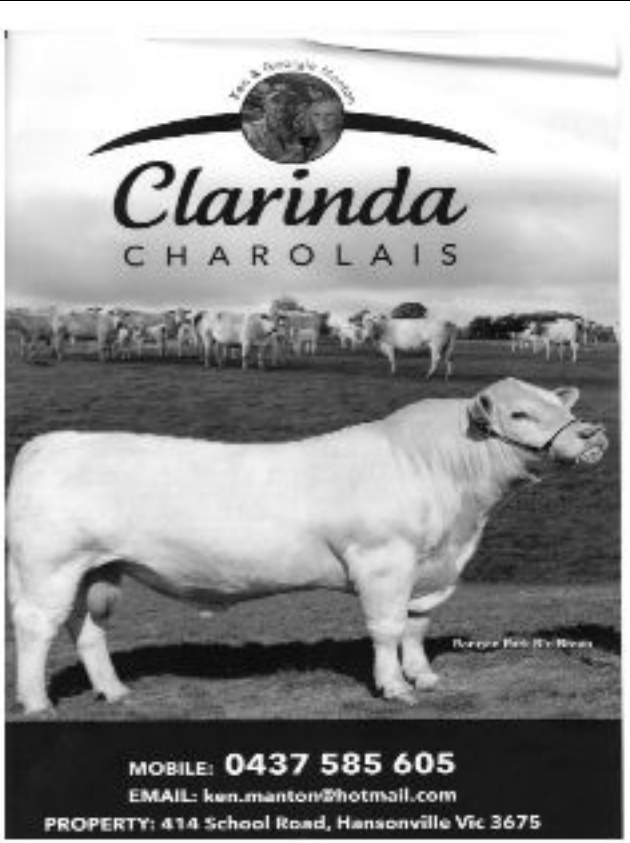
This project depends on our Communities support. There will be tasks big and small enabling all of us to contribute!!

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Clarinda
CHAROLAIS

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EMAIL: ken.manton@hotmail.com
PROPERTY: 414 School Road, Hansonville Vic 3675

BULLS & FEMALES FOR SALE

FRIENDS OF THE BUNYIP

Annual General Meeting.

Greta Valley P.S. Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30

Anyone interested in taking a role or sharing ideas is most welcome.

IF YOU HAVE SOME TIME AND COULD HELP DELIVER THE BUNYIP IN THE GRETA / GRETA WEST DISTRICT PLEASE LET KRIS KNOW 0467 673 067

