

NEWSLETTER



GRESFORD RECREATION RESERVE & SHOWGROUND

Newsletter No 3 – November 2018

Hello everyone – it has been a long time since the last Newsletter from the Park (2012), largely because the previous editions did not seem to generate much interest, but there have been quite a few changes recently that have prompted us to renew the Newsletter template. Should any individuals wish to be on the direct distribution list, please let us know via email to gresford.park@bigpond.com.

WHAT'S NEW!!

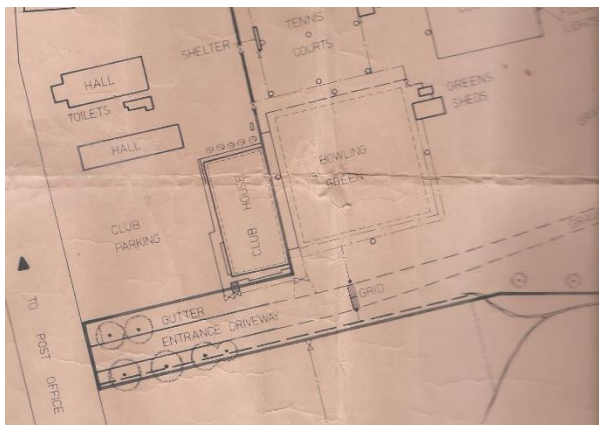
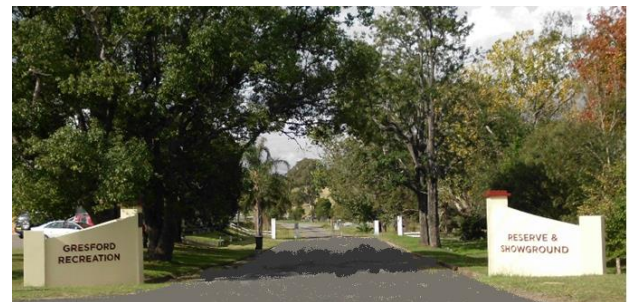
The most obvious change is our new name – as you know, the Reserve is a Crown Land Asset that is managed by up to seven community members appointed by the Minister for Lands every 5 years. Up until recently, that group operated under the auspice of the *Crown Lands Act 1989* and the *Crown Lands Regulation 2006* and was known as the Gresford Park Trust.

As of the 1st July 2018, both previous governing documents were revoked and replaced by the **“Crown Lands Act 2016 No 58”** and the **“Crown Lands Regulations 2018”**. Under the conditions outlined in these documents, the group managing Gresford Recreation Reserve and Showground has been renamed the **Gresford Park Land Managers**, so we have been systematically changing our name on all our documents.

A lot has happened over the past few years

NAME THAT ROAD?

Back in 2012 the Park Managers requested input and suggestions to name the laneway between Orana Park and the Bowling Club that leads to the Reserve, so that the physical address of the Reserve matches its actual location, instead of the location of our water meter which is between the Butcher shop and the Hotel Beatty!



Turns out that we actually own that little laneway after all!! It was long thought by both Council and the Reserve Managers that the section between Park Street and the cattle grid was public road, however research has shown that it is part of the Reserve, along with the small strips of land either side as shown in the plan to the left. As a result, the Park Managers have partnered with the Gresford RSL & Gresford Community Group and granted permission for a hedge of Callistemon Allyn Flame to be planted along the southern side of the laneway to

commemorate the anniversary of WW1 and we have named the area *Memorial Walk*. The Park Managers are also considering continuing that walk throughout the Reserve as a meandering, recreational footpath and health and fitness asset for the community.

THE WHITE PAPER

Many of you will remember the “White Paper” that proposed sweeping changes to the management of Crown Land assets, including moving control of Crown Land Assets like Gresford Park away from a community controlled process to Local Government (Council) control.

The final report following that 2014 White Paper review of Crown Lands Management included the following summary -

The submissions included:

84 submissions from Local Councils

55 submissions containing similar comments about environmental issues

49 submissions supporting the current legislative

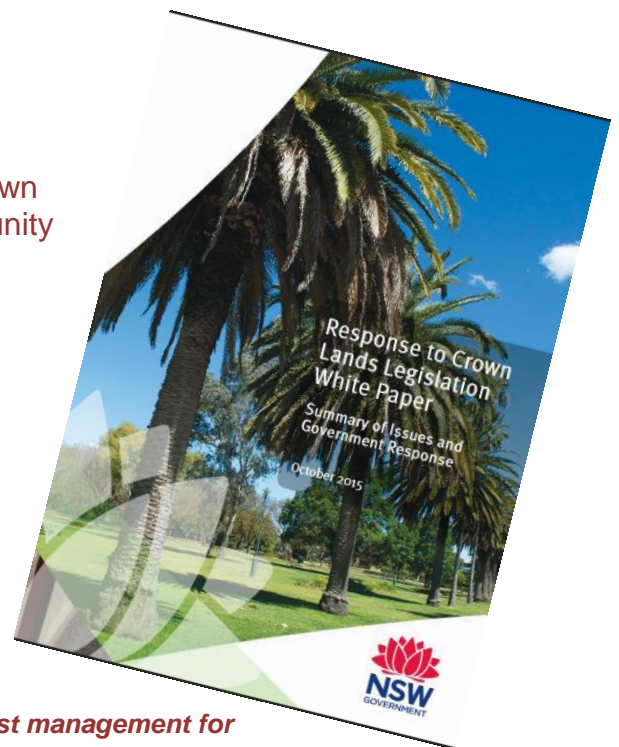
arrangements for St Albans and Woomargama Commons

43 form letters from members of the Waterfront Action Group

14 submissions from Local Aboriginal Land Councils

12 submissions calling for the retention of community trust management for Gresford Park

5 submissions from Regional Organisations of Councils



Your responses and submissions on this issue were not only noted, they were responsible for the Gresford Recreation Reserve and Showground continuing under a community based management.

WHAT ELSE HAS CHANGED??

The need to change all references to the Reserve management group from Gresford Park Trust to Gresford Park Land Managers was actually well timed because it coincided with the 5 year review period for all our governing documents, guides and forms that collectively comprise our Risk Management System.

The Park Managers have been holding monthly meetings since July to discuss revision parameters and facilitate adoption of the updated documents. The adjacent list of documents have all been reviewed and updated over the past 4 months. Most have now been adopted with a few a still pending final proofing and adoption.

MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW 2018

In addition to the governance documents listed here, the final draft of the Management Plan for the Reserve has also been distributed to the Park Managers for review. We are just waiting on confirmation of details from a few event organisers that use the Showground and once we have those and the Park Managers have had a chance to review the document, it will be distributed for public review.

At some point in early 2019, the Park Managers will organise an information night to present the results of the community consultation that was undertaken as part of the review and possibly other presentations, if there is any level of interest in us doing that. There will be more on that at the end of the newsletter.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

1. Code of Conduct for Crown Reserves.
2. Work, Health & Safety Policy
3. Risk Matrix
4. Fire Protection Asset Register
5. Asset Register
6. Overview Of Park Management

INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

7. Guidelines for Use & Hire
8. Fee Structure
9. Projects (Protocol for Undertaking)
10. Pesticide Usage Plan
11. Instruction & Induction Booklet
12. Pre-Event Audit

FORMS

13. Project Worksheet & Volunteer Register
14. Damage/Incident Notification Form
15. Event Lockup Checklist
16. Event Application

PRMF **now CRIF GRANTS**

As well as the name change of the Park Managers, the PRMF Grant scheme (Public Reserve Management Fund) has become the CRIF (Crown Reserves Improvement Fund) Grant scheme. Applications for 2019 will open in February and close in March. Anyone that is considering proposing a project for the Reserve should request a copy of the information sheet "Protocols for Undertaking Projects on Gresford Reserve" from the Park Secretary.

If you have any suggestions of projects that you would like the Park Managers to undertake to improve the Reserve, please either contact the Park Managers to set a time to outline your project or send a letter outlining the project for their consideration. If there are no impediments surrounding the project, the Park Managers will nominate a liaison team to assume the role of Project Managers who will consult with you throughout the project development to ensure the project is on track to achieve the goals that were nominated in the initial application and to report back to the Park Managers.

CAMPING LEVELS

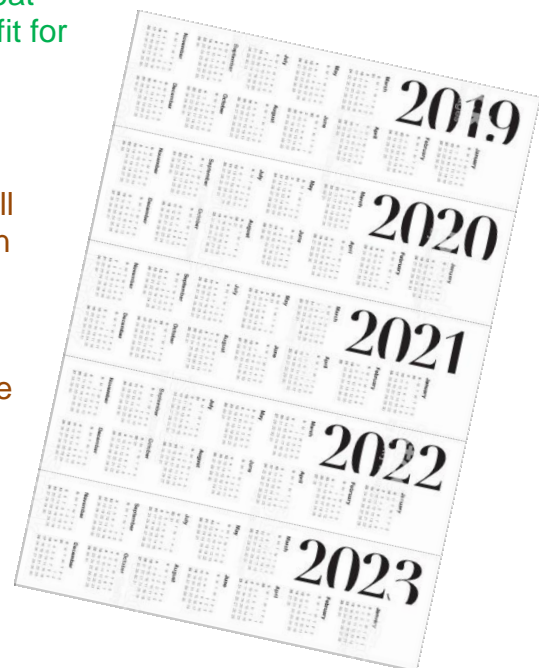
Occupancy rates of the Camping Area at the Reserve have continued to increase over the past 12 months with an overall increase of 2.5%. Powered sites show an increase of 1.7% whilst the popularity of unpowered sites has increased by 16%.

Gresford's new camping area (Camp on Allyn) is proving to be a great asset to Gresford by providing campers with a bit of a variation. We are both finding that visitors are rotating between the two camps which is great for all of us. In an added bonus for the Reserve, the "other guys" do more advertising than we do, so while they are doing the hard yards and attracting people to the town, the Reserve is seeing the benefits as well. Increasing Gresford's popularity as a destination is a great thing because it also leads to an overall economic benefit for our town so well done Camp on Allyn!

CHANGING TENURE OPTIONS

One of the major changes to Reserve operations that will be introduced in the next calendar year will be the option for event organisers to engage in longer tenure options (up to 5 years) with the Park Managers.

A major catalyst for this change by Crown Lands is to provide event organisers with planning security for future events which should not only provide those groups with the confidence to invest in the future of their own event, it will provide the Park Managers with some income security to plan for improvements for the future.



PLANNED WEBSITE

Another project that is on the drawing board is the compilation and construction of a website showcasing the Reserve and providing information for Event Organisers. We have not discussed the nitty gritty of the format as yet and will be considering options such as which information will be accessible to any member of the public and whether any information sheets or forms need only be accessible by logging in to an event portal. It is proposed that all the documents listed above that form our Risk Management System will be available for viewing, referencing and printing online. In the meantime, if any of these documents are of interest to you, please contact the Park Managers c/ gresford.park@bigpond.com for an electronic copy or contact the Secretary of the Park Managers on 02 49389462 for a printed copy.

COMMUNICATION with PARK MANAGERS

As always, communication with the Park Managers regarding operational matters needs to be a bit more formal than just a casual chat in the street or a phone call. Park Managers are governed under the same information and record keeping requirements as State and Local Government Agencies which means we must maintain a record of all the communications, assets, improvements and repairs that we undertake.

PHONE

- Damage at the Reserve that could endanger the public or escalate to create a safety hazard should be reported to one of the Park Managers via phone ASAP.

EMAIL

- Email is a good platform for casual enquiries such as checking for calendar activities prior to lodging date applications, simply because the calendar that needs checking is on the computer that receives the emails but the phone is not always with the computer.
- Requesting time to address the Park Managers at their meetings should be done by email so the meeting can be recorded as an agenda item and the discussion documented and recorded.
- Requesting forms or information sheets and submitting completed forms is more efficient than a phone call simply because the computer that receives the emails also has the documentation to send by return.

LETTERHEAD (Submitted electronically as an attachment to an email or as a hard copy via the Post)

- Non urgent damage that does not present a danger to the public can be reported electronically via letter or via the *Damage/Incident Notification Form* which will be sent to event organisers as part of their annual event package and will also be available on the website when that is launched.
- Requests for the Park Managers to undertake any non-urgent maintenance or upgrade work to the Reserve should be submitted by letter so there is a traceable record in our minutes indicating that the work was done to current legal standards for Public Grounds by qualified trades people.
- Requests for the Park Managers to undertake additions and improvements should also be submitted by letter.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the Park Managers will be organising an information session in early 2019 to share the results of the survey undertaken in preparation of the 5 year review of the Management Plan for the Reserve.

In addition to the survey results, the Park Managers will be guided by the community for suggestions of any other presentation topics they would like covered during the first information session or subsequent information sessions.

Examples of possible topics include – *Risk Management for Events; Project Development on a Crown Land Asset; Biosecurity – what is it and who does it affect?; Hints for Completing a successful Grant Application; Public Liability – what does it actually cover?*

If any of these topics (or any others) would benefit you or an organisation you are a member of, please let us know and we will do our best to develop a presentation for you. The topics do not have to be specific to Events on the Reserve and you do not have to be a ground user to attend or suggest topics.