

NEWSLETTER



GRESFORD RECREATION RESERVE & SHOWGROUND

Newsletter No 4 – May 2019

Hello everyone – Welcome to Newsletter No 4. Should any individuals wish to be on the direct distribution list, please let us know via email to gresford.park@bigpond.com.

REMEMBRANCE WALK



The planting of a hedge of Callistemon Allyn Flame shrubs along the driveway entrance to the Reserve commenced last year and was completed just prior to the November 11th Remembrance Day ceremony when the plantings were blessed and dedicated as a memorial to the cessation of WW1. The planting has survived reasonably well throughout the drought and the extreme temperatures over summer with a few specimens needing renewal. Now that the weather has eased, the failed specimens will be replaced and

the grass in the area will be removed and replaced by mulch.

continuing the walk into the Reserve

The archived minutes of the Reserve contain several references to specific memorial trees planted to honour the contributions of various community members to the Reserve. All but 2 of these memorials have disappeared over the years and as none of the plantings were ever signposted, we are not sure which need to be replaced so we are planning to renew them all. East Gresford Postmistress Cris Dosey has approached the Park Managers with an invitation to endorse her application for funding through the Australia Post Community Grant scheme to purchase trees and plaques to create a lasting memorial to the people that made significant contributions to the Reserve. The grant is only open to employees or contractors with Australia Post and the Park Managers have gratefully endorsed Cris's funding application so cross your fingers for us!!!



The proposed planting is envisaged to be an avenue of stately trees lining the driveway to the Reserve and each planting will be accompanied by a plaque identifying the individuals. This memorial replacement and renewal project has been pending since 2011 and it would be wonderful to see it come to fruition.

STOP PRESS – we just received word (29/5/2019) that we were successful with this application – thank you to Cris Dosey and Australia Post for helping us complete this one !!!

FUNDING SUCCESS

The Park Managers have been working on a partnership application with Dungog Regional Tourism for the past 2 years. The first application failed but we are pleased to advise that the second application was successful with the allocation of \$142,000 for Gresford Reserve.

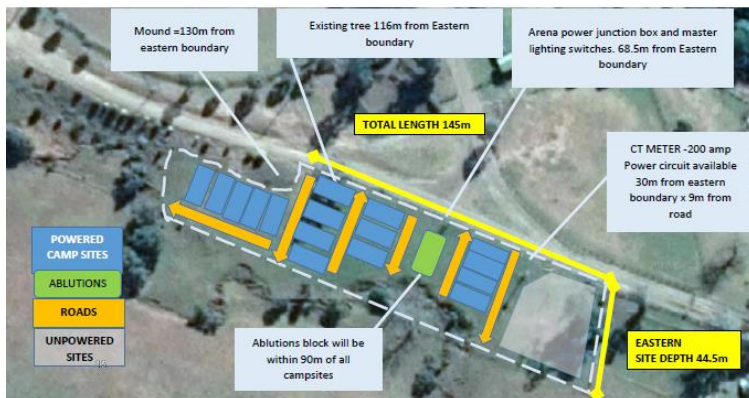


The parameters for this application were limited to infrastructure like roads and drainage rather than buildings. The scope of the projects for Gresford includes a major drainage operation to control and redirect the large volumes of water that have been flowing onto the Park from the north-west corner for many years. This inundation turns the area above the stock yards into a swamp and the copious amount of water involved follows a path straight through the areas

commonly used for public entertainment and have threatened the cancellation of many events. The source of the water has long been a topic of conversation and speculation amongst event organisers. Various drains have been built to catch and manage the water but none have succeeded so far.



The Park Managers are very grateful to Shire Engineer Steve Hitchens who very kindly met with us onsite to look at the problem and offer an insight into the likely source of the inundation and also point us in the right direction to enable us to develop a scope of works to accurately identify the problem and develop a drainage plan to deal with it once and for all. The aim of this project is to reclaim the area above the stockyards as functional land, provide protection for events and protect the southern areas of the Reserve. The Park Managers will be open to suggestions about future development and uses for the site once it is stabilised.



The second project covered by this funding will be the creation of an expanded camping area below the main access road to the current camp area. This one will have the dual function of catering for competitor camping during major events such as the Show and Rodeo – thankyou to the Rodeo committee for welcoming Rosemary Wall to one of their meetings to get an insight into the preferred design

of the sites. Each site will be provided with power and water so those that are “self-contained” can enjoy the luxury of their own showers which in turn should take the pressure off the Parks amenities in these peak times.

Moving the camping activities from the area behind the stables will mean that smaller events such as Pony Club, Team Penning and Eastern Zone Stockhorse Show can better manage the separation of horses and the public and cater for overnight camping of their competitors in the stables area. As mentioned before, this grant did not support funds for buildings so the Park Managers are on the lookout for other funding options to construct another amenities block to support the new camp area so if you hear of anything please let us know! The project manager for these 2 undertakings is Rosemary Wall so if you have any questions please feel free to contact her on 49389462.

LANDSCAPING PROJECT

Regular patrons of the Park will have noticed the development of a grassed area in front of the Function Centre building at the Park. This project has been the passion of Noel Brown and Tim Capp. Just over \$12,000 has been expended on the project so far to create a levelled grassy area capable of hosting a marquee or for families to spread a blanket and watch the arena during events. The area has been fenced to protect it from vehicular traffic and a few other restrictions such as a ban on campfires in the area have also been suggested.



GRANTS & OTHER PROJECTS

GRESFORD RODEO NEEDS YOUR VOTE PLEASE

The Gresford Rodeo Committee have submitted a Grant Application to purchase a set of portable stockyards and bucking chutes under the Service NSW grant scheme. The cost of hiring these items every year is becoming a financial burden that reduces the viability of their event. Problem is that all the winners are chosen by POPULAR VOTE.

VOTING

Voting will be open for four weeks from **15 July to 15 August 2019**. If you live in NSW and are 16 years or older, you'll be able to vote for the projects in your electorate. To vote ONLINE, you'll need to visit the "My Service NSW" website and either use your existing account Login OR create a MyServiceNSW Account. To vote IN PERSON visit a Service NSW centre and the staff will help. You will need to provide your Medicare card to verify your name and age and your NSW residential address to identify your electorate. You'll need to pick between three and five projects in your electorate, arrange them in order of your preference, then submit your vote. Each person can vote only once.

OTHER PENDING PROJECTS

As well as the projects already mentioned, the Park Managers have several upgrades and improvements planned for the short term future as follows.

- We have lodged an application with the latest round of the Crown Reserves Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) to expand the current fire-fighting network we have in place and to bring a second water supply line down through the Reserve to cater for the new camping area and bolster the capacity of the existing water supply.
- The Park Managers are also planning to install a line of power heads and taps along the western side of the stables (and possibly the eastern side as well) to support competitor camping during events.
- The bottom access road to the camping area will have some form of lighting installed along its length for the protection of people walking there after dark.
- Approximately 6 camp sites will be installed in the vicinity of the old cricket nets. These will be for self-contained vehicles only as they are too far away from existing amenities. The walk from the current camp area up to town is a little difficult for some and these sites will provide closer access. This one needs a DA so it will be a little while in the planning.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMETHING NEW???

The Tennis Club have recently advised the Park Managers that they no longer have a need for the old clay courts closest to the School of Arts so that area will not be included in their Lease. The Park Managers are open to suggestions and proposals on what to do with the area and invite your suggestions. Your involvement can be as simple as telling us your idea or as complex as sending us a proposal and forming a partnership with us to have a “hands on” involvement in developing your idea.

Funding is not a pre-requisite for nominating a project – the Park Managers are very patient and have a multitude of projects of various sizes and costs waiting for the right grant opportunity to present itself so if you have any thoughts for a project that would benefit the town please feel free to share your idea with any of the Park Managers or send an email to gresford.park@bigpond.com.



PLANNED WEBSITE

The Park Managers have started to gather suggestions from Event organisers about the format for their webpage however so far only one individual has provided any input so it is likely to become a work in progress that develops over time. If anyone in the broader community has any suggestions of information that may be of interest, please contact the Park Managers c/ gresford.park@bigpond.com or contact the Secretary of the Park Managers on 02 49389462 to advise any suggestions.

COMMUNICATION with PARK MANAGERS Just a reminder that, 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.

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PARK MANAGERS – Mr N. Brown, Mr T Capp, Mrs R. Lawrence,