

Quarterly Newsletter – Dec 2015

From the President's Desk . . .

2015 has been a very busy year, as you will see from the brochure we are sending out with this newsletter.

Alongside all this activity, the Visitor Centre continued to welcome visitors every weekend, Public Holiday and school holidays, promoting Guilderton as an environmental asset, thanks to a team of volunteers, and the Guilderton Community Library, continued to provide a great collection of books on Saturday mornings.

The GCA is in very good shape, and I feel it is time to step down as president to allow someone to come along with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. The committee plans no major events for 2016, which will allow time for a new president to settle in. The main role for the president is to liaise with the Shire in the interest of the Guilderton/Moore River community and environment. 2015 has been a particularly heavy year for me, as I have also been carrying the roles of secretary of the GCA, and treasurer/business manager of the Visitor Centre, and have helped establish the new Arts Sub-committee. I would not have been able to do this without the huge support I have received from GCA Vice-president, and Visitor Centre Coordinator, Linda Johnson. I am ready for a break, which means we need a secretary as well as president. I will still be happy to help and to be nominated back onto committee.

My report would not be complete without mentioning the major changes that are happening in Guilderton.

Foreshore Redevelopment Phil Cook has been reported to have been all smiles, when he got the opportunity to be the first to use the new launching pad, albeit it was the un-launching of his boat, which he had to leave in the river whilst the ramp was being constructed.



The activity at the foreshore has been frenetic, with all works all but completed at the time this newsletter goes to print. The boat ramp, jetty and pontoon is an initiative that has been driven by the Shire of Gingin from the onset, and continues to be driven by the Shire. The Shire has consulted with the GCA all the way, but the actual design which has given rise to plentiful local opinion has been, determined by compliance to building specifications for boat ramps and jetties in Australia. Whilst it is impossible to please everyone in a community made up of people with such wide interests and differing views, we trust that you will all be pleased with the end result. The Shire has invested a great deal of money and time in order to get this right. The Shire assures us that they are not hoping to attract more visitors, as they are in agreement with us, that the number of visitors will always be capped by the lack of additional car parking facilities, and no place

suitable to develop such. Their aim is to raise the visitor experience, and also that of the locals. The disabled will be benefitted, as there will be a ramp to give them access to the fishing jetty, and the boat launching facility will be a lot safer than the former ramp. The foreshore car park will be redesigned and bituminised next year, but this will not result in a greater number of vehicles being able to be parked. The lack of parking facilities will continue to cap the number of visitors to the current crazy level.

Breaking of the Sandbar

The sandbar has, over the last several years, been breaching further and further to the south, and in recent weeks was starting to erode the dunes on the south side of the river. This last happened in 2008, when the Shire asked the Department of Transport, the then named Department of Infrastructure, for their advice. The DI provided detailed instructions on when, where and how to break the bar artificially, which the Shire followed in 2008. When the same conditions presented in 2015, the Shire decided to wait until construction of the jetty and boat ramp, when the sandbar would need breaking to lower the water level. The timing of the construction was carefully planned to coincide with the time of year when the sandbar opens and closes naturally. The opening of the sandbar has now been corrected to the position recommended by the Department of Infrastructure, which will facilitate the river to flush better each time it breaks.



Environmental Concern

The GCA has over the years, made the Shire aware that the environment of the Moore River Estuary is sacrosanct to the local residents, who work so hard to preserve this uniquely special region, and indeed to many of the visitors who return to Guilderton every year. The Shire has consistently demonstrated a concerned and managed approach to issues and environmental concerns in Guilderton, including

1. detailed assessment and re-opening of the boardwalk in 2013, with ongoing monitoring, resulting in reducing environmental impacts upon the cliff face and foreshore by controlling access to the site;
2. installation of the new beach access from the top lookout to reduce the damage from the previous uncontrolled access; and
3. taking a number of samples for testing against Acid Sulphate Soils to ensure that minimal damage is conducted, with contract specifications ensuring that management plans be initiated should such tests prove to highlight a problem.

Jeremy Edwards, Shire CEO, has assured us that the Shire endeavours to support groups at Guilderton for this truly unique place, is spending over \$1 million in recent capital works and has a number of planned projects into the future, all of which will provide an enhanced level of service to the community and its tourists. "A more controlled and compliant coastal infrastructure will make things a lot better, but will not fit any more people into Guilderton over busy periods."

Photo Monitoring and Water Quality Monitoring

These are two very interesting and valuable projects, which will continue through 2016. Northern Agricultural Catchment Council have been instrumental in setting up these projects,

inclusive of obtaining a grant to purchase the water quality monitoring equipment, and Department of Water have given an instructional hand, and will conduct the tests on the water samples. The GCA is working in partnership with Friends of Moore River Estuary, who are taking the lead role in these two projects, with Bob Johnson taking the photos for the photo monitoring. Bob is still seeking an assistant to cover him should he not be available. A smart phone is the only prerequisite.

Vehicles on the Beach and Desert

This problem is ongoing, the GCA is meeting with the Shire, Departments of Parks and Wildlife, the development company and rangers to work out a strategy to combat it. Meantime, please continue to call the ranger on **9575 2222**, and send in your photos showing registration numbers.

Website

The GCA is excited to announce that it has just launched a new shared website with Friends of Moore River Estuary, the Visitor Centre and the Library. Please check it out, and let us know your thoughts, www.guildertonwa.com.au.

We would like to thank Melissa Dewar for providing us with some stunning photos.

We have set up Facebook and Instagram, and are seeking a younger person, who is more familiar with social media, to assist with the updates. Kerry Jones will keep the Visitor Centre website updated, and I the GCA, and possibly FOMRE.

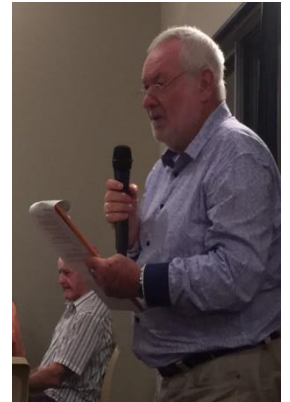
AGM

You will see the notice and agenda in this newsletter. The GCA welcomes new and returning members, as well as non-members. We would love to have you join us, even if it's just to come along and find out what is happening in Guilderton, and have the opportunity to speak with those who are making the decisions in the

interest of the community – your views are important to us. There is a membership form within our brochure. Your membership dollar makes a big difference to us, please keep it coming in. A strong membership base also gives the GCA stronger lobbying power.

Volunteer's Dinner

The GCA, supported by the Guilderton Country Club, held a very successful Volunteer's Christmas Dinner on International Volunteer's Day on 5th December, to acknowledge and thank our active volunteers. We asked the groups to send in a brief script to be read out on the night by emcee and GCA Committee Member, Peter Fry. These scripts are loaded with useful information, which we have printed in this newsletter.



I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and a safe one, should you be travelling. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 23rd January 2016!

Gillian Lamont

We wish all our members, family and friends a safe and wonderful Christmas Season

Volunteers Dinner Group Reports

Guilderton Moore River Visitor Centre

The Guilderton Moore River Visitor Centre provides information to visitors and residents about what is on in our area and who provides what services. We have information from the Shire and FOMRE, and current brochures about boating, fishing, birds and plants.

This year we produced an excellent Walk Trail brochure and renewed all the maps around town, thanks to Rachel at Moore Catchment Council.

The Centre is open 9am to 12 noon on weekends, public and school holidays. We sell locally made honey, olive oil, jams, pickles, gift ware, toys, books and souvenirs. As a sub-committee of GCA we give a huge thanks to all our volunteers who keep us going. We would warmly welcome you to help us. Please contact Linda if you are interested.



Linda Johnson, 0414 6311 273

Moore Arts

Moore Arts has focused its efforts on Easter Arts Saturday, both this year's event and planning for the next. We were pleased to attract new artists this year and look forward to doing so again next year. Our committee decided that the theme of work should be art of the area or from artists who live in the area, with the work being considered as having artistic value. We seek to be different from art available at other outlets in the area, although we may choose an overlap where the works fit very well. To this extent, Anne Gilkes held an artists' weekend with members of Perth Plein Air Painters. They painted at various locations in Guilderton using a range of media: oils, pastel, acrylic and watercolour. We hope to see the results of this work at Easter 2016. We are also hoping to announce an artist-in-residence event for next year. **Elizabeth Eaton**

Anne Gilkes, a.gilkes@westnet.com.au, 0427 687 053

Guilderton Community Library

The Guilderton Community Library continues to prosper with a growing member base in 2015. Our very successful annual Trash and Treasure again provided financial support for a successful year. Coupled with regular book sales, this allows the library to provide variety and a diverse range of new books.

We also had another guest author this year. Rachael Johns was an interesting and intriguing young woman who showed us that WA has great talent in our own backyard. On Saturday, February 6th, the Guilderton Community Library will host guest author Faye Bohling with her new memoir 'The Laundry Girl'.



The computer system has been fine tuned to better meet our needs and enables us to be more professional and accountable.

We continue to have a wonderful volunteer group who provide a valuable service in a facility that encourages community interaction. Some of these volunteers have been with us for nearly 10 years. We thank them for their loyalty.

Madeline Henshaw, 9577 1528

Guilderton Country Club



The Guilderton Country Club was initially funded by a \$20,000 Gingin Shire loan & \$10,000 raised by members in 1971. The Club encourages sporting, recreational, social and community activity for Guilderton and the surrounding area. Sports currently include golf, bowls, tennis, putt-putt, pool and darts. The Club is also responsible for the management of the Community Hall and Reserve and is open for meals & refreshments five days per week. The Country Club is run by the Members for the Members. It is a 'Not for Profit' incorporated Association welcoming new Committee members and ideas.

Website: <http://guildertoncc.wix.com/guildertoncc>

Bob Johnson, 0417 186 805

Guilderton Golf Club

Members enjoy full use of our beautiful, reticulated, sand green, 9-hole bush course (which is maintained by volunteers) all year for the measly sum of \$320, which includes Country Club membership. What a bargain! Visitors pay \$12.50 a day to play as many holes as they please. We run proper competitions on Saturdays and Scroungers 9 holes on Wednesdays for aspiring golfers. Club members go away to play at other clubs through the winter season. We always welcome new members. For more information, please see our Captain, Phil Flavell. philatgabbadah@gmail.com



Guilderton Bowls Club



The synthetic full sized bowling green is located below the Guilderton Country Club that members share as their clubhouse. This beautiful floodlit venue is available for membership at \$275 (pensioner \$245) per year which includes full membership of the Country Club.

Members enjoy club events from October through to May and as a member club of the Moore Districts League we are involved in pennants and league championships. A scroungers (casual) competition is held every Thursday afternoon from 2.30pm and all players and visitors are welcome.

Visitors are welcome to play social bowls any time for a \$5 green fee per person (bowls supplied). See you on the green and good bowling.

Allan Wetherley, a1.images@bigpond.com

Moore Men's Shed



As a result of a public meeting held by interested men in the Moore River surrounds, the Moore Men's Shed was inaugurated. The first couple of years, the men's shed operated from a shed on the corner of Gingin Brook Road and Indian Ocean Drive. After applying to Lotteries West and the Bendigo Bank in Gingin, the Moore Men's Shed was finally able, through the help of the Shire, to procure its own facilities. These facilities were opened on the 26th of October. The Men's Shed is a facility for men of any age to congregate in order to socialise, carry out community work, and work on both private and community projects.

In the past, the Men's Shed has raised monies by making sand-boards through the Guilderton Visitor Centre, with both groups sharing the profits. Recently the Sovereign Hill Community Association was helped out by the Men's Shed by providing a bike rack at one of the school bus stops in the estate. The Men's Shed invites all males in the area to join and socialise in what is a great community cause.

Ken Nottle, kgnottle@gmail.com, 0418 938 232

Lower Moore River Working Group

The Lower Moore River Working Group is a non-political working group that purely focuses on the Lower Moore River and its environs. We actively manage Weed Infestation, Revegetation, Walking Trails and Boardwalks /Fishing Platforms and Erosion that is due to boat traffic and livestock. We also work with local landholders to revegetate, fence and direct stock from bank degradation. Our constitution is quite simple: "[Rehabilitation, conservation and maintenance of the Lower Moore River and its riparian zone.](#)"

We encourage any volunteers or groups that are interested in assisting our projects for planting days, fencing, sandbagging, construction or weed management to register their group.

This year we will be embarking on replacing and extending the existing boardwalk, as well as much needed repairs and replacement of fencing along the river.

Steve Collett, stephen@aluimage.com.au

Friends of Moore River Estuary

FOMRE'S 20+ year commitment to champion the ecological, social and aesthetic values of this iconic feature of Western Australia has endured several major setbacks, over the past few years. While the dedication of the area to conservation has not yet been achieved and the proposed urban development on the south side of Moore River estuary remains unacceptable, FOMRE remains very relevant.

We have successfully developed constructive working relationships with all organisations involved in the management of the River. Today we are involved in practical projects that will enhance our knowledge and protection of the estuary's environmental values.

Join us as we strive to protect this precious area from unnecessary urbanisation. It is hugely worthwhile!

Diana Papenfus, diana676@tpg.com.au



Guilderton Bush Fire Brigade



Over the past year it has been its busiest in 15 years, with our 3 vehicles leaving the sheds approximately 100 times. With the thunder storms of late 2014, there were approximately 12 fires running simultaneously throughout the Shire, with all our vehicles out plus Gingin Shire vehicles along with assistance from neighbouring shires.

Vehicles and crews attended fires at Red Gully, Esperance, Bindoon, Cowalla Rd, Cockburn, Yanchep, Bullsbrook, Jarrahdale, Boddington, Bindoon and many others. The brigade volunteers have also completed numerous hazard reduction burns in Redfield Park, Sovereign Hill and Guilderton.

We have assisted with Music in the Park Celebration and have recently liaised with the Men's Shed in Guilderton to upgrade the notice board at the fire shed to provide contact numbers/info for brigade burns, permits, fire break notices etc.

Michael Pollette, 0414 751 248

Our Ambulance and First Aid Group

It's been a successful end to 2015 for the local ambulance vollies. We are excited about the new members that have recently joined us. At present we are heavily involved in assisting with their training before the busy new year period. The new shed extensions are being very well used.



The Spring Fair was a great day for us. Many thanks to the craft ladies for the money donated to us from the quilt raffle. A lot of our first aid kits were sold as well.

Another highlight was visiting the Woodridge playgroup. By showing the children through the ambulance many of their fears were put to rest.

We say thank you to all who have supported us throughout the year. We are looking forward to a promising 2016. Stay safe and have a great festive season. Your local ambulance vollies

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Guilderton Community Association

Saturday 23rd January 2016 at 9:00am

Guilderton Community Hall, Wedge Street, Guilderton

Nominations close on 16th January 2016

Nomination forms may be given to a Committee Member or posted to:

Guilderton Community Association PO Box 1101, Guilderton, WA 6041

For further information contact the GCA at guildertonca@inet.net.au

www.guildertonwa.com.au

Nomination Form

I hereby nominate:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

For the GCA Committee position of:

Signature of Nominee:

Date:

Nominating member's details:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Signature: