

Welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter!  
You are invited to add your news by email to [oracle@oxley.vic.au](mailto:oracle@oxley.vic.au) or posting a hard copy to The ORAcle, PO Box 219, Oxley. You can also contact us to have your copy of the ORAcle emailed.

## Oxley Residents' Assoc.

A brief update on the projects of the association:

- We are continuing to chase up the responsible land manager for the reserve with Council and DEPI. Our next step will be to develop a management plan in consultation with all the stakeholders.
- Council has informed us that they have engaged a contractor to connect the public toilets at the **Oxley Memorial Park** to sewerage system. This will reduce the wet and boggy areas around the playground over winter.
- The **High Tea** in May raised \$2000 for the Oxley Relay for Life team. 105 people attended and enjoyed some delicious food and great entertainment. Thanks to the Social Committee who make this such a wonderful annual event.
- The Remembrance Day Committee has received some information about grants available in relation to the **Gallipoli Centenary**. We are proposing recognising our Vietnam veterans on the remaining blank panel of the Memorial at the park.
- We are in the process of applying for a Grant to cover the cost of a laptop and colour printer/scanner to be shared amongst Oxley's community groups.

## Lost Wangaratta on Facebook

If you love looking at historical photos, check out Wangaratta's new Lost Wangaratta page on facebook. The site contains photos and stories of lost or forgotten parts of Wangaratta. There are some great black and white photos of shopfronts and stores around Wangaratta and it is well worth checking out.

## Oxley Fire Brigade News

- The community donated \$2600 via the brigade to Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.
- The brigade has raised the fire hazard on north of Faithful Street through Wangaratta Group and Rural City of Wangaratta.
- Two new members have joined. The brigade now has about 40 members, but needs members who are available during business hours for day call outs.
- Elections were recently held. Tony Ciavarella has stepped down as Captain after 8 years, he thanked all for the support over the years. The new Captain is Wayne Doig, 1<sup>st</sup> LT Tony Ciavarella, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Bruce Uebergang, 3<sup>rd</sup> LT Brendan McDonald, 4<sup>th</sup> LT Warwick Philpott. Secretary/Treasurer Karen VandeSande and Communications Officer Roger Dadd.

## Oxley Shire Hall

Whilst we are gearing up for another Bush Market in November, we have also been busy at the Hall:

- Captions being added to existing historical photos around the hall and new photos are being framed.
- A building permit has been submitted to Council for a new shed to securely store our gazebos, umbrellas and dinner chairs as our existing shed has reached storage capacity.
- Council have engaged a contractor to connect the Hall to sewerage scheme in the near future.
- The hall piano is having a face-lift and will be stained, polished and tuned.
- The new front doors for the Hall have been built by Claytons Joinery and will be hung in the coming weeks. We need to investigate suitable locks for our new doors.

## Oxley Recreational Reserve

- The Committee is applying for a grant to upgrade the toilets, install air conditioning/heating and a dump point for RV travellers.
- Thankyou to everyone who helped to complete the Reserve usage survey. We have the results from the surveys and these will be compiled to develop our Strategic Plan.
- The North East CMA has commenced removal of willow, blackberry and hawthorn along the river frontage. A riparian fence is being erected with a cattle grid allowing Reserve users access to the river. The frontage will be periodically grazed to reduce grass loads at appropriate times.
- The meeting minutes and booking calendar for the Reserve can also be found on the web at [www.oxley.vic.au/oxleyrecreationreserve](http://www.oxley.vic.au/oxleyrecreationreserve).

## Community Hall Use

The Oxley Shire Hall Committee is keen to encourage the hall to be used for group activities during the week. In the past the hall has been used for playgroups, cards, tai chi and other workshops.

We would encourage anyone with an interest in running an activity to get their group together and contact the Secretary Janet Heath on 0437 243 583 or email [oxleyhall@gmail.com](mailto:oxleyhall@gmail.com) to check for availability. A minimal hire charge to cover heating/lighting costs would apply.

## Bush Market News

The annual Oxley Bush Market will soon be upon us! The cost of sites for the market are as follows:

- Single \$50.00
- Double \$120.00
- Triple \$250.00

Applications will be sent out in late July to all previous stall holders. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list for applications, please send your details to [oxleyhall@gmail.com](mailto:oxleyhall@gmail.com).

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us on the day. Please come along to the next Oxley Shire Hall Committee meeting or contact Janet Heath directly on 0437 243 583.

## Oxley Township Development Plan

**A community workshop is being held on Friday 4 July 11.30-1.00pm at the Oxley Shire Hall.**

Council is seeking your input into what the Oxley Township should look like in the future and for you to put forward your ideas and comments on how as a community we plan for the future of Oxley. Please RSVP to the Planning Department on 5722 0888 by Monday 30 June 2014 if you plan to attend. *We need as many residents as possible to put forward their ideas at this meeting.*

## Town History

- We have been contacted by the State Library of Victoria who is launching the **Changing Face of Victoria** exhibition in November 2014. The Library has requested some historical images of the Oxley Township and the exhibit will feature a series of letters written by Donald Sutherland, Bank Manager, Bank of Victoria, Oxley during the 1870s.
- You can also view a copy of one of Donald Sutherlands letters at the **Historical Exhibition of Oxley and District**, Monday 6 October at the Oxley Shire Hall from 2-4pm. Come along to see some wonderful black and white photos of your township and a copy of a recently found letter from Donald Sutherland and newspapers of the time, recounting his tale of the Kelly Gang and the Glenrowan siege. A local letter sure to excite all Kelly enthusiasts!
- We are in the process of developing a **Town History walk**. A number of sites of interest have been identified and drafted on a map. The next step will be to locate appropriate funding sources and consider types of site markers. Sites will also need to be prioritised once Milawa have compiled their points of interest.

## Volunteers Required

### Do you love hearing about Oxley's town history?

The Residents Group is keen to form a History Sub-committee to help in researching and developing history related projects in Oxley. We need a few more hands to help share the work. The type of tasks that we need help with are:

- Finding appropriate grants and writing applications for specific projects
- help with scanning, transcribing and documenting old Oxley Shire correspondence and other historical material.

If you are interested in helping out in any way, no matter how big or small, please contact Neil Brock on 5727 3644.

## Council Media Release

The Rural City of Wangaratta now has an official Twitter account @WangRuralCity.

Council's Twitter account will provide timely information on:

- Current news, projects and resident information
- Alerts to upcoming events and activities
- Engagement opportunities
- Emergency information for weather warnings, during storms, fires, road closures and other emergency issues
- Direct people to Councils website for further information, to make payments, lodge Customer Action Requests, download and submit forms.

*Did you know you can quickly and easily report non-emergency council issues direct from your smartphone?*

iCouncil (iphone, ipad and ipod devices) and SnapSendSolve (Android devices) are two apps that can be downloaded for free.

Customer Service Coordinator Tanya Camplin is encouraging members of the community to consider using the apps to notify council of non-emergency issues as they see them.

The information is then sent directly to Councils Customer Action Request via email to be acknowledged and actioned by staff on the next working day.

## Term 2, 2014 at Oxley Primary School

We have a fantastic term 2 at Oxley Primary School with a great mix of engaging learning activities, sporting events and excursions. Highlights for the term have included:

- The year 5 and 6 super hero projects. The students investigated a wide range of super heroes and even invented their own super hero with magical powers.
- The annual Bike Hike to Bright was again a success for all students, teachers and parents. Over the course of 2 days students rode over 70km, stopping at Myrtleford Primary School for the night. Highlights on the trip included a stop at the Beechworth Lolly Shop, Beechworth Bakery, the talent show and of course the company. Mr Shaw led all the students, staff and parents in a fantastic manner.
- The unit of work that the year 2, 3 and 4's completed on money. At the completion of this unit the students had the opportunity to bring \$5.00 in change and spend their money on an excursion down to the Oxley Pantry. It was great to see that the students had the opportunity to take their classroom learning into a real life scenario.
- The Earn and Learn program that the year 2, 3 and 4's are currently implementing. This program aims to teach the curriculum area of civic and citizenship where students from Prep to Year 4 develop their learning about home and family, school and local community. They are introduced to relevant skills, values and knowledge by exploring and developing understanding of familiar environments.
- The Foundation and year 1 students have all been working very hard with the wonderful Mrs Batey. It is great to see the excellent reading and writing results that have been coming out of this room. They also completed a wonderful unit of mini beasts (bugs and insects) during the first semester.

## Oxley Primary School Enrolments for 2015 & 2016

Currently Oxley Primary School is accepting enrolments for 2015 and 2016. Over the last 4 years we have had a steady increase in enrolments from 64 students to our current number of 76. In this edition of the community newsletter I would like to focus on our wonderful Foundation/Year 1 teacher.

Julie Batey is our exceptional Foundation (formally known as Prep) and Year 1 teacher who has been at the school since 2002, helping every student that has been through her class to reach their potential in all areas of the curriculum. She has worked in a variety of states and schools within Victoria and has been able to master the art of educating students at any year level, particularly those who start school. I strongly believe that Julie is one of the best Foundation teachers in Victoria and this is due to the care that she takes with all of her students not only academically but also socially.

Julie's knowledge of the curriculum and what it takes to educate students at this year level surpasses many teachers that I have worked with across a number of schools over my years. If you are looking for the best start your child in 2015 or 2016 and want to make sure that they are confident both socially and academically then I strongly encourage you to take the time to take a tour around Oxley Primary School.

*Jeremy Campbell, Principal.*

## Our Local Environment

**National Tree Planting Day** – Sunday 27 July. There are opportunities for helping plant some natives at the Oxley Primary School or within the Oxley Memorial Park grounds. If you are interested in being part a tree planting session in the morning, please contact Sally Day on 5727 3616.

**Friendly Frogs in our Wetlands** – Come along to Our Ladies Primary School Hall in Wangaratta, 28 June 10-12pm, for a community presentation about the frogs living in our wetlands and creeks. Please RSVP by 26th June to Wangaratta Council Environment Unit, 03 5722 0888. Morning Tea & Refreshments provided.

## Newsletter distribution

We like our news to reach as many Oxley Residents as possible, including those that live out of town. At present this newsletter only regularly reaches town residents.

Some local volunteers are needed to help distribute newsletters, meeting reminders, social club event flyers, etc. to letterboxes along the various roads:

- Wangaratta Whitfield Road - from freeway overpass to the School and from the school to Tetleys Lane
- Around the triangle – near the Oxley Primary School
- Snow Road - from intersection with Wangaratta Whitfield Road to town and from town to the Old Flourmill on the corner of Woodberry's Lane
- Oxley Meadow Creek Road – from the Snow Road to the Recreation Reserve or beyond to Docker
- Oxley Plains Road from the Snow Road north to the Oxley Flats Road.

If you regularly walk or drive any of these routes and would be able to quickly pop a notice in a letterbox, please help us out. We can drop the material to be distributed to your door. Please call Sally Day on 5727 3616 or drop off a note at the Oxley Shop for the Oxley Residents' Association with your details

## Upcoming Meetings

**Oxley Residents' Association & Oxley Shire Hall Committee** – 5 August 2014, 7.30pm

**Oxley Recreation Reserve Committee** – 22 July & 26 August, 7:30pm at the Reserve Clubrooms.