

Date: 9th May 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SUBJECT: LIONS CLUB OF GUNDAGAI REPLACEMENT OF WEATHER SHELTER IN YARRI PARK

SHELTERING IN YARRI PARK

Picturesque Yarri Park has seen some enhancement recently with the demolition and replacement of a weather shelter. Yarri Park is used extensively by the Gundagai community. Many family celebrations, general recreational activities and service groups use the park for functions. There's many a traveller who also use the park for rest and recreation.

Bordered by poplar and elm trees, the park follows the bank of Morleys Creek with free barbecues, picnic tables, toilets and children's playground. The park plays host to many a picnic and social gathering.

Named in honor of Yarri, an indigenous man of the Wiradjuri people, Yarri was among other young aboriginal men who rescued 49 people from the flooded Murrumbidgee River in Gundagai on the night of 24 June 1852.

The Lions Club of Gundagai have for many years been stewards of Yarri Park, providing and maintaining the electric barbecues and other shade shelters in place today. A Lions member also cleans the toilet facilities voluntarily. When one of the shade shelters was in need of replacement Lions Club members sought help through the Stronger Communities Fund and applied for a grant to fund this venture.

Their application was successful with a grant totaling \$14603 awarded. A new steel structure has been erected by local contractor Justin Smith Welding and Fabrication and has enhanced the recreational and barbecue facilities already in place. The structure meets the requirements of local government legislation.

The new weather shelter replaces an old wooden structure that Lions members thought was posing a risk to users. The new shelter will benefit all sectors of the Gundagai community including visitors who are encouraged to stop, revive and survive.

This project is another example of how the Stronger Communities Fund has enabled a community group to improve facilities within our council area, the project will encourage a healthier lifestyle for the community and encourage visitors to stop in our towns. Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council's Administrator Stephen Sykes said.

The Stronger Communities Fund is an initiative of the NSW State Government and administered by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

Member for Cootamundra, Katrina Hodgkinson MP said the new structure would further enhance Yarri Park and encourage more people to use the facilities.

"The Lions Club of Gundagai do a fantastic job at Yarri Park and on many other local initiatives, so I'm delighted to support this project through the NSW Government's Stronger Communities program," Katrina said.

END

**Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
PO Box 420
Cootamundra 2590**

For Further Media Information Contact: Maxine Imrie Media Officer 02 6940 2100

Maxine.Imrie@cgrc.nsw.gov.au

Caption:

Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council Administrator Mr Stephen Sykes, welcomed a group of tourists from Pakistan who were enjoying a picnic under the new weather shelter, built by Gundagai Lions with a grant obtained from the Stronger Communities Fund.



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