

# Girl Guides Victoria – Burnet Park Campsite

## Newsletter No. 5 – October 2018



Welcome to the 5th edition of the Burnet Park Campsite Newsletter.

This edition has been issued to coincide with the official re-opening of the campsite, as we come to the end of the first major redevelopment project. Read on to find more details about this event, and other happenings at Burnet Park.

### **About Burnet Park:**

Burnet Park is the Girl Guides Gippsland Region campsite and outdoor activities centre. It provides indoor and/or outdoor camping facilities for small / medium community groups and families. It is located in a tranquil bushland setting, about 15 minutes from Morwell or Traralgon, in the foothills of the Dividing Range. For more information about the park, please check out <http://www.guidesvic.org.au/GG/Venues/BurnetPark>.

### **Stage 1 Redevelopment Project:**

For the last 9 months, we have been working on a major project to restore and revitalise the Burnet Park facilities, and to enable the campsite to continue to operate well into the future.

The project, valued at \$245,000, was made possible as a result of grants and donations from the Latrobe Valley Authority, Latrobe City Council, the Keith Chenhall Foundation, and other benefactors. Additional fund-raising by the Management Committee, Friends of

Burnet Park, Trefoil Guild, and the wider Guide Community have also contributed to this total. In addition, local suppliers, contractors, and community groups have donated goods and services to the project.

The scope of the project has included all of the urgently – needed repairs and refurbishments identified in the Management Plan as being needed within the first 2 years of operation, as well as many of the longer-term improvements originally expected to take up to 5 years to be accomplished.

In addition to an extensive list of smaller tasks, the major components of the project have included:

- Earthworks and drainage to prevent water flow under the main building, and to improve access to and within the site.
- Complete re-stumping, external repairs and painting of the main building.
- Replacement of the old security shutters with easily operated new roller shutters.
- Complete refurbishment of the existing kitchen.
- Provision of heating facilities to the common room and bedrooms.
- Extensive re-wiring; new lighting; and additional power points.
- New all-weather access paths, steps and handrails.
- Improvements to the camping areas, creek access and grounds generally.
- New roof, and solar-powered lighting, to the external toilet block.
- Fencing of the complete property.
- Improved external appearance and signage.
- Installation of 2 x 45,000L water storage tanks for potential fire fighting purposes.

With the exception of some minor items, work to the main building is now complete, and the campsite is operational. However there will be ongoing work to complete externally, and this is expected to take until the end of 2018.

These outstanding external works, comprising path construction, landscaping etc, are part of the volunteer work requirement, which was committed to by Guide groups from throughout the Gippsland Region. With well over half of the total required volunteer work completed to date, a big effort is now needed to wrap up the project.

### **Burnet Park Official Re-opening:**

With the Stage 1 redevelopment works coming to completion, and bookings being accepted for the last few months of the year, the committee decided that a re-opening event would be a fitting way to publicly acknowledge all those who have supported us, and to celebrate the “re-birth” of the campsite. This event will be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October, commencing at 1.30pm, and will be attended by our major funding partners, local parliamentarians, community groups and representatives of the Guide community.

### **Bathroom 2 Refurbishment:**

Refurbishment of the 2nd bathroom in “Illangi” was not included in the scope or budget for the Stage 1 redevelopment project. At the planning stage, it was decided that this room would be given a “cosmetic” upgrade, pending a full refurbishment to be carried out at a later stage. However, during the course of the Stage 1 work, it was discovered that cracks in the concrete floor of the bathroom had deteriorated to such an extent that the showers in this room have had to be taken out of service in order to prevent further damage.

Consequently it was decided to urgently bring forward the complete reconstruction of this bathroom, and to enable it to be fitted out as an accessible shower and toilet facility. Work will commence on this project, valued at about \$25,000, at the end of October. A generous

grant of \$15,500 towards the cost of this project has been provided by the Keith Chenhall Foundation.

### **Rintoul Creek Banks Restoration Project:**

During the last 6 months, we have been working with the Landcare team from West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, to try to eradicate invasive weeds from the banks of Rintoul Creek which adjoin our property. This has been partly successful, although complete extermination of the Blue Periwinkle will become a long-term process.

A large area near our creek access pathway has been cleared, and on 28th September, a small party of volunteers managed to plant over 150 native trees and shrubs in this area.

### **5-Year Management Plan:**

As we come towards the end of the 2nd successful year of operation of the Management Plan, the committee will shortly begin the process of reviewing the plan, and the setting of goals and priorities for the next 5 years. It's important that this isn't done in isolation, but takes into account the needs and aspirations of all our stakeholders and users.

If you have any good ideas or suggestions for improvements that you'd like to see take place at the Park, or if you'd simply like a copy of the updated Management Plan, please contact one of our Committee members, whose contact details are at the end of this Newsletter.

### **Friends Of Burnet Park:**

The Friends of Burnet Park group continues to be a great asset in assisting the Management Committee with working days, fund raising, and activities to support the building and grounds maintenance program.

New members are always welcome – please contact the group's convenor, Linda Hall [lmh-080808@bigpond.com](mailto:lmh-080808@bigpond.com), for more information.

### **Bookings and Activities:**

Burnet Park is available for bookings by Guide groups from throughout Victoria, as well as local Community groups and families.

There are still a few dates available for the rest of this year, so if you'd like to stay, or hold a day activity, at Burnet Park, now's the time to confirm your booking.

We'd also like to encourage groups to consider camps and activities during the early part of next year. The first half of the year is traditionally a quiet time at Burnet Park, so by booking early, you can almost certainly guarantee to get the dates you want.

Please contact the booking secretary, Amanda Clark, [amanda@edgehill.net.au](mailto:amanda@edgehill.net.au) for enquiries or to make a booking.

### **Situations Vacant:**

The Management Committee is seeking new members to help spread the load, so if you would like to be part of the team planning and managing the campsite, and you can spare time for a meeting every couple of months, plus a bit of "thinking" time, please contact one of our committee – we would be happy to welcome you on board.

The committee is also seeking volunteers to assist by filling the following roles. If you know of anybody in your community who has the spare time and experience to assist, we'd also like to hear from you:

Media Liaison / Publicist (Volunteer Role):

To establish and maintain contact with local media outlets (newspapers, radio, TV, community newsletters etc). To present positive information and news concerning Burnet Park events and activities. Also to prepare and circulate Burnet Park Newsletters within the local Guiding and general community.

Caretaker / Key Holder / Cleaner (Volunteer role plus expense reimbursement):

Local resident able to hold keys; check campers in and out; inspect site weekly for safety and security; report repairs and maintenance if required. Would also be the contact point and key holder for emergency services personnel.

There may also be the opportunity to carry out paid cleaning work if desired.

**Contact Us:**

The Burnet Park Committee of Management members are:

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