

## Gresford Community Group achievements 1995 – 2011 projects worth \$318,900

The Gresford Community Group has been responsible for or involved with a remarkable list of local infrastructure and events since its formation in March 1995. We thought the colour upgrade to *The Gresford News* would be a good time to look back on some of our achievements as well as plan for the future. Looking across these pages we can see how our lives, the lives of our children and our surroundings have been enhanced by these community projects. We would like your suggestions for future projects for our community so that the progress can continue. Please send us your thoughts or join us on the first Monday of the month at the Beatty Hotel for our meeting. The Gresford Community Group Inc mission statement is:

*The provision of a non-political group to assist in the responsible development, future planning and expansion of the Gresford district to the benefit of all residents.*

March 1997 Orana Park Play Centre improvements by way of a grant and in conjunction with Dungog Council. Disabled toilet in the Park opened 2005

Gresford/East Gresford walkway in conjunction with Dungog Council which links the twin towns for a distance of 2km. Opened June 1997

By arrangement retrieved the 'Defibrillator' from the Health Centre, and moved it to a new site outside Foodworks, the container being provided by the RGYS. A small number of trained people in the district are qualified to use the machine, and several more will be given some instruction in its use in case of an emergency cardiac arrest in Gresford.



Instigation of **Gresford Pre-School** which operates 3 days/week for up to 12 children. Opened September 1996

2009 - The construction of a covered emergency assembly area linking the School of Arts and the adjacent Supper Room through a grant won from the Hunter Community Recovery Fund

Set up a Gresford info website which is about to be updated to continue to provide online information about the community

Establishment through a grant of a multi-purpose sporting court/ community facility located at the public school

Established a Rural Transaction Centre September 1999 – with banking facilities, Medicare easy claim, local government facilities, office space, tourist information, computer and internet access, most of which is now located in the East Gresford Post Office

Published the 'Gresford News', a monthly local news and events publication with a circulation of 750, covering the Paterson and Allyn rivers to Paterson and west to Glendonbrook. Recently purchased a new double side colour printer for the Gresford News and other Community activities.



Australia Day recognition awards and luncheon recognising the significant contributions to the district by local citizens



Continuing from 2008 – reclamation, rehabilitation and landscaping of the river bank below St. Anne's Church



Providing a mobile phone for residents to contact local police. Representations to the Commissioner of Police for police presence in the Gresford District.



Construction of a skateboard facility for the youth of the district in conjunction with the Park Trust and Dungog Council – opened January 2007. Organised a graffiti art workshop. Ongoing works underway include the construction of a sunshield sailcloth covering the Skateboard facility, landscaping and seating



Provides umbrella support to local community organisations and events including GAPS (Gresford Amateur Performing Society), Gresford Billy Cart Derby and the Gresford Historical Society



Organised meetings to develop a Community Plan



Establishment of a youth group and the purchase of the Therese Doyle Youth Hall – opened February 2005. Funding programs and workshops for youth and adults. Supporting the Gresford Gallery and Gresford Grooves to provide Tai Chi and yoga to residents. Facilitated the installation of an air conditioning unit at the Hall.



Gets together a team on 'Clean Up Australia Day'



Providing adult education opportunities – supporting workshops held at the Gresford Public School; and installing a computer at the Twin Rivers Café for adult computer classes and general community use



2010 Carried out a program of streetscape improvement by planting trees and erecting tree guards in Park Street and Durham road



Continues to organise the monthly markets at Cleveden, including the barbeque staffed by the members of the Community Group and more recently by other groups for their own benefit