

The Gundagai Independent

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Truck and tractor show pulls huge crowd

Weekend entertainment in Gundagai following on from the annual Show saw the Australian Road Transport Heritage Centre's (ARTHC) tractor pull and swap meet draw an impressive crowd back to the showground on Saturday.

Amid picture perfect weather, over 1000 people wandered through the gates, with the event also offering a truck show and shine, market stalls and all the fun and excitement of lawn mower racing.

The ARTHC committee is thrilled with how the day unfolded and are now busy planning for their popular Sylvia's Gap run over the long weekend in June.

"We're very happy, it was a big crowd and we thank the community for their support of the event," ARTHC treasurer Jim Morton said.

"We had trucks come from all over as well as 47 tractors, and a lot of those people have told me that it's the best event they've been to."

While the committee is still tallying up the takings from Saturday's event, all money raised from the day



The team from the Australian Ride on Lawn Mower Racing Association kept the crowd entertained in the show arena at the ARTHC tractor pull and swap meet at the weekend.

will go towards the establishment of a truck museum to be nestled next to the Hume Highway at South Gundagai.

Meanwhile, the temporary museum in Jack Moses Street continues to draw visitors.

"It's going pretty well, some days are better than others," Jim said.

"Some days we might

only get one or two visitors through and then at other times it's flat out. We had a big day there on Sunday."

Ray Mackay from the Australian Ride on Lawn Mower Racing Association (AROLMRA) said the team enjoyed racing for spectators in Gundagai on Saturday and would definitely come back again.

"The crowd was fantas-

tic," he said.

"During every block of races, people just flocked to the fences to watch, so I think everyone enjoyed it."

AROLMRA is the biggest lawn mower racing club in Australia and has 40 racing lawn mowers in total, with 10 being brought to town for Saturday's event.

"Lawn mower racing is not large in Australia but it's

certainly around and growing," Ray said.

"We have pockets throughout Queensland and New South Wales, and we try and promote it and get clubs going."

"We're hosting the all Australian event in June and mowers are coming from all over the country for that."

While Saturday's event in Gundagai was mainly for

demonstration purposes, the association is non-profit and normally donates money raised from events to charities such as the Royal Children's Hospital.

"If Gundagai wanted us back, we'd be happy to come again, and maybe look at making it a part of our annual racing calendar," Ray said.

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De-merger hopes live on with next stop: Premier

A Gundagai delegation is waiting to secure a meeting with Premier Gladys Berejiklian in an ongoing effort to have Gundagai released from its merger with Cootamundra.

Gundagai Council in Exile (GCIE) members Abb McAlister, Peter Gain and Gordon Lindley along with former deputy mayor David Graham met with Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton and Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson in Sydney last Friday, with the delegation walking away from the 30-minute meeting feeling "very positive".

"We feel we got a very good hearing from the Local Government Minister and that it was a very productive

meeting," Mr McAlister said.

"What came out of it was the Minister's recommendation that we persist with seeking a meeting with the Premier, and that's what we're now doing."

The meeting with Ms Upton came following Deputy Premier John Barilaro's visit to Gundagai to meet with GCIE on February 12.

On February 14, Premier Berejiklian announced that all merged councils in New South Wales would remain in place, while releasing councils fighting merger battles in the courts.

The group is asking for Gundagai to be recognised as a "special circumstance", since it filed court action



Community members fighting to see a de-merger of Gundagai and Cootamundra are in the process of securing a meeting with Premier Gladys Berejiklian (centre), after meeting with both Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton (left) and Deputy Premier John Barilaro.

two minutes ahead of the government's May 12 proclamation, and had to abandon the case after funding, set aside by the former Gundagai Council, was pulled by new Council administrator Christine Ferguson in a rescission motion.

Around 400 residents attended a public meeting in Gundagai on February 5 to hear Shadow Local Government Minister Peter Primrose outline Labor's pledge to allow councils to de-merge through a plebiscite should the Party win the 2019 state election.

At that meeting, however, residents expressed a desire for the merger to be dismantled as quickly as it was put together on May 12 last year.



Not just a meeting place

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