

# DIVERSITY MATTERS

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2019



# hmc

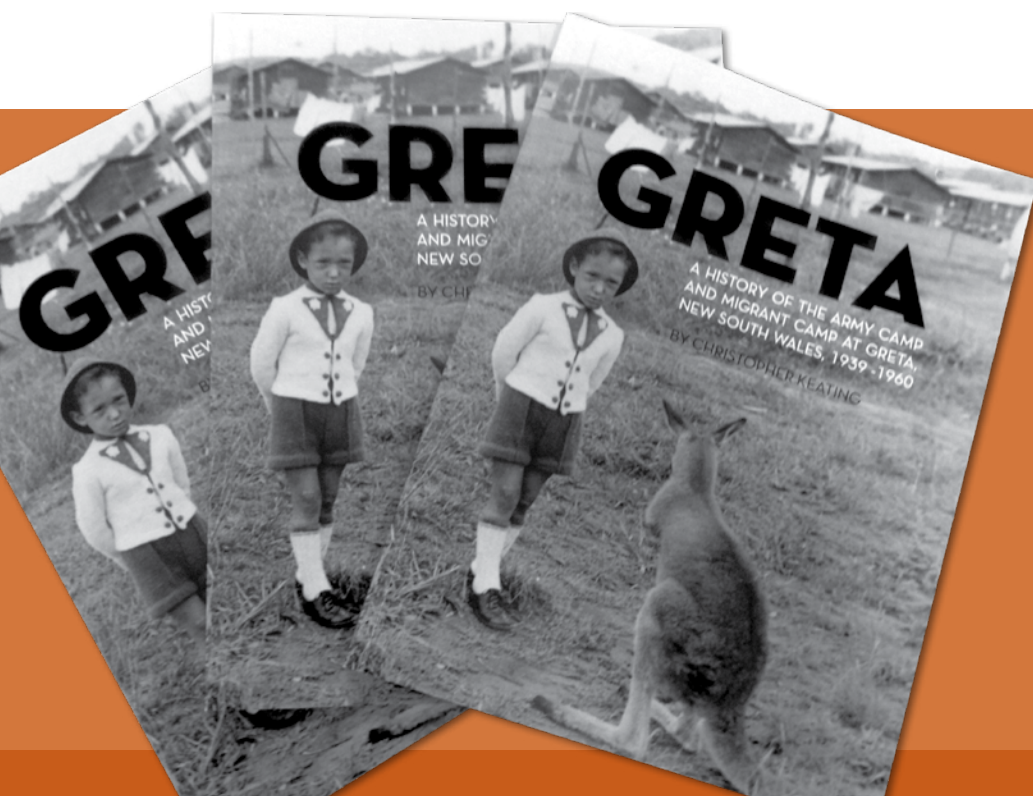
Hunter Multicultural  
Communities



We had a great night celebrating the anniversaries of the Greta Army and Migrant Camps at the HMC, and bonded over our local community's shared heritage as immigrants to Australia. Many thanks to the wonderful people that came and supported us!

The exhibition is now a permanent part of our community hall, and is free to visit at any time between business hours.

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For a limited time only we have books documenting the history and experience of the Greta Camp for \$20 (\$25 if postage is needed) but stocks are extremely limited and getting in quick is essential.

Contact 4960 8248 or [office@huntermulticultural.org.au](mailto:office@huntermulticultural.org.au), or come to our office in order to secure your copy!

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Dear All,

Firstly, I wish to thank HMC staff and volunteers for their continued hard work. It's been a busy three months with significant community work, networking and organising for the joint 70th and 80th Anniversary celebrations of the Greta Migrant and Military Camps.

Our commemorative activities at the John Gebhardt Centre including the Greta Photo Exhibition and Dinner Screening of "Silver City" were well received and celebrations will culminate in a 2 day event (9th and 10th November 2019) on the site of the Greta Camp for the last time.

These were the vision of myself and CEO, Annette Gebhardt and were delivered with the assistance of Angela Tsolakis, Suzi Cvetanovski and Sabine Abbassi. I thank all those who showed their support and solidarity by attending, which made the time and effort planning these activities worthwhile. The photo exhibition will now serve as a permanent memorial to the Greta Migrant camp and its residents.

A Greta Memorial Garden within the grounds of the HMC is underway. It will house the "Greta Rose" which was brought to Australia by European migrants. We hope to unveil this in October 2019, so please keep an eye on the Facebook page for more information.

The latest Diversity Walls project collaborated with Tim Phibs, a Sydney based artist and Northlakes Youth Project. The piece is a colourful tribute celebrating themes of cohesion, unity and Australian trade unions. The mural is located on Main Road in Cardiff (see inside this edition).

The next programmed mural (A tribute to Greta Migrant Camp) will be at the Branxton Community Hall. We were lucky enough to workshop with students from Kurri Kurri High School who will complete the artwork with The Wall Station in October.

Another great HMC initiative has given opportunities to local students to gain experience and exposure to real life work environments through facilitation of workshops and mentoring. Callaghan College and Kotara High Schools have been involved and placed in areas such as: The HMC Café, Men's Shed, Diversity Garden and across our Health and Wellness Centres.

The HMC Café has re-opened for business. We have proudly partnered with Godfather Espresso and their work training youth in hospitality and barista work is to be congratulated. The café is looking great and we hope to have the HMC playground completed very soon. A "Mums and Bubs" group is planned to encourage networking opportunities and reduce social isolation. Please spread the word to highlight this great community hub.

Milan and Aged Care team continue to deliver essential services to our senior citizens and CALD communities and we hope to expand our services to Cameron Park in the near future.

The Men's Shed and Diversity Garden continue to thrive and we thank Aurizon and Port Wa-ratah for their support and funding to commence a brand new initiative shortly.



Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the Work for the Dole programme. Particularly Darren and his team for all of their efforts and work around the place, it is looking great!

**Jason Scriven**  
Business Development Manager

## Greta Camp Anniversary Exhibition at the HMC

### ABOUT THE CAMP

The Greta Army Camp was an Australian Army Camp site that was acquired by the Army on the 7th November 1939 and was chosen to build one of the Australian Army's largest training camps. The camp was built to train the 6th Division 2nd AIF, the site received its first soldiers from the 2/11th Battalion on the 15th December 1939, and was gradually expanded throughout the war. Greta Camp was known as "Chocolate City" due to the brown coloured oiled timber buildings, and other parts were called "Silver City" due to the corrugated iron Nissen Huts that were built.

After WW2, Europe was devastated. The Australian government offered a safe sanctuary for migrants looking for a new start and between 1945 – 1965 more than 2 million migrants called Australia home. In 1949 the Greta Army Camp was transferred to the Department of Immigration, during this time the camp was used as a reception and training centre for migrants. Between 1949 and 1960 the camp housed over 100,000 migrants, from over 17 countries such as: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Italy, Greece, Macedonia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria and Netherlands.

These migrants formed the foundation for Australia's multicultural society, and today most people living on the east coast have some connection to the camp: be they fathers, mothers, brothers, or even having been born there.



In November there is going to be an anniversary event at the Greta Camp site, supported by the HMC and the Central Hunter Business Chamber. Information regarding the event can be found at:

[www.gretaarmycamp.com.au](http://www.gretaarmycamp.com.au)  
[events@centralhunterbusiness.com.au](mailto:events@centralhunterbusiness.com.au)



### Office Recycling

Great News! The HMC office now has provisions to recycle not only paper and cardboard but also mixed recycling and soft plastics. In our staff kitchen there are three bins, one silver bin for general waste, black for co-mixed recycling and purple for soft plastics. Next to the large photocopier is a blue bin for cardboard, paper, and magazines to be recycled. Don't forget that we have the security recycling bin in the storeroom to place sensitive information in such as names and contact details of our clients. The Men's Shed also has provisions for cans and bottles for the reverse recycling machines. The feedback so far on the recycling has been positive and everyone's contribution will help with reducing excess waste.



# HMC Community Garden Report

With a very dry and windy winter it has been a battle to keep the Garden producing through those tough times, so looking forward to spring. We had 2 very successful Market Days in May and have been very busy stocking up for our Spring Market Day on 7th September.

Our chicken coop is now completed and will be housing our first laying hens over the next few weeks, another exciting experience.

We have just harvested around 35 kilos of gold kumera (sweet potato) and the gardeners have enjoyed trying some easy recipes at home. We are starting to pick broad beans, snow peas, beetroot, spinach, leeks, cabbage, strawberries, limes, pak choy and broccoli, and have had an abundance of assorted herbs. Our green house is packed to the rafters with seedlings, young plants, herbs and succulents that have been propagated from various plants and are ready to sell at our upcoming Market Day.

Thank you to those who have dropped off small jars, pots, plants, chokos, fruit etc. to the garden, they are all being put to good use. I have been busy making lots of jams and pickles to sell, so remember to call in to purchase these along with our fresh herbs which are always for sale. We have also recently designed an exclusive Gift Voucher which may be purchased for any nominated amount at any time, and can be redeemed for plants, pots, novelty gift items etc; come and have a talk to me about them.

There is a new added feature to our garden, it is to honour the memories of the Greta Migrant Camp which was established 70 years ago. The main feature of the Memorial



Our Bees have arrived and have happily settled in, we have two brood hives with their queens busily laying lots of eggs to build up numbers. In early spring we will be adding the supers, so the bees can make honey for us to eat and sell, I am really looking forward to that experience of harvesting our first jars of honey. **Many thanks to Flow for sponsoring us!**

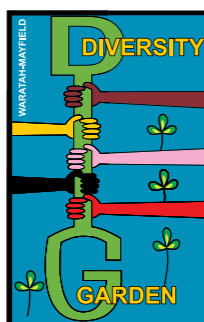
will be a climbing rose which was propagated from a few cuttings discovered on an excursion to the camp 10 years ago and was aptly named "The Greta Rose." Keep a lookout for the official unveiling which will be held soon.

The Garden is also working with the HMC with some local schools, and we have already had a few different groups come to learn about horticulture as part of their school studies on a regular basis. Karen and I spent a delightful day at the Gowrie Centre an early learning and child care centre in Mayfield and at the end of August we hosted 55 year 1 students from the Hunter Christian School at Mayfield. All the children took home a small pot with some seeds to grow and some Rosemary cuttings to propagate, it was a lot of fun!

We're still looking for keen gardeners to join us, so please enquire at the following:

westwick1@dodo.com  
0413 229 740 / 4952 1327

**Margaret Kenning**  
HMC Garden Co-ordinator



*Our chicken coop is looking great thanks to the Work for the Dole boys and girls. Now we just need some chickens for it!*

Seeing as I have been flat out making lots of jams of late, and strawberries have been very cheap in the shops, here is my recipe for rhubarb and strawberry jam. It's great to have on scones and pikelets or fill little cooked pastry cases with a dab of whipped cream.

### Rhubarb & Strawberry Jam

680g fresh rhubarb – washed, trimmed and cut into short lengths  
900 g – 1 kilo strawberries – rinsed, hulled and chopped  
5cm piece of root ginger (optional) – peeled and finely chopped or grated  
900g – 1 kilo white sugar  
1.2L water

#### METHOD:

Place rhubarb, strawberries, ginger and water in preserving pan and simmer over gentle heat for 1 hour, or until the fruits are very soft and pulpy. Add the sugar and stir frequently until it is all dissolved, then bring to the boil and boil rapidly for 20-30 mins, or until the setting point is reached.

Cool slightly and skim if necessary, pour into clear warm sterilised jars, seal when cold, label and store in a cool place.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Each newsletter we will be celebrating and recognising the work of our volunteers. Here's where you can help!

Please nominate (along with a brief reason why) any of the HMC volunteers who go over and above and we will reward one nominee each newsletter with a **\$50 gift voucher as a token of our appreciation.**

Thanks to everyone that came to the Community Garden's Spring Market Day!

We celebrated the Garden's 5th birthday with the local community and had a ball with all the stallholders and volunteers.

We look forward to the next market day and seeing all your friendly faces again!

## THANK YOU... Hayden Piefke

### Meet Hayden Piefke, a Community Gardener at the HMC for 5 years!

During the first week in September 2014 an Expression of Interest Meeting was held for interested people to take over the upkeep and development of a newly established Garden at the HMC (formerly ECC) grounds. There were a lot of people at that meeting and 30 to 40 names were gathered and were given a tour before a "Work for the Dole" group handed the Gardens over to them to look after the Garden. Out of that meeting a core group of 12 – 15 keen gardeners came and worked in the Garden on a regular basis for a couple of years and for various reasons have left to pursue other ventures.

Hayden and I are the only original gardeners who come regularly and he has taken on extra responsibilities when the occasion arises; for example when I was off for 7 weeks last year, I asked him to be in charge and to keep the Garden going until I returned and he did a great job.

Hayden turns up every Wednesday at 8.30am ready to take on any tasks given to him, unless it is very bad weather or he has had to go to Sydney for treatment to his eyes. He also looks after Raymond, who is one of our disabled gardeners and makes sure that he has drinks of water throughout the day and gets him his hot lunch on a Wednesday.

Whenever there is something special coming up and the Garden needs extra work done, I only have to ask him to come in for an extra day or two and he does, as long as he can go home to have his "Nanny Nap" after lunch.

Without him our Market Day Stalls would NOT happen!! When I ask for volunteers to give some time to help set up, man the stall through the day or assist with the packing up, he is the only one who arrives at 6.15am sometimes with a cup of coffee in hand for me (purchased on his way) to assist in unpacking my car, setting up gazebos, tables, merchandise etc, stays all day AND stays to help pack up at the end of the day around 2pm.

Thank you Hayden, for being there at our Spring Market Day to cut our birthday cake celebrating 5 years. I sincerely hope we can do it all again in 5 years to celebrate 10 years.

Enjoy your gift card Hayden, you have certainly earned it.

**Margaret Kenning**

HMC Community Gardens Co-ordinator



## Work for the Dole

Since June, the WFD (Work for the Dole) people have had a variety of work to do, jobs like Margaret's chicken coop and pen.

The chicken pen had to be fox-proof, so we had to dig all of the surrounding mesh down to a metre's depth, which was a bit of hard yakka when assembling. All the mesh was attached to the frames, and the frames themselves had to be shortened before the mesh fit properly. The chicken pen and coop has an outer layer with a lid so we can get the eggs inside, rather than having to open the chicken coop door and going inside directly. Because the chicken house is timber and run through with mesh, this means we had to have the mesh surrounding the timber so foxes could not chew through.

The WFD people have repaired the fencing which was cut by vandals around the back of the Men's Shed, and have extended the height of the fence by about 6 feet which also consists of barbed wire.

They have also moved the water pump which waters the gardens. The pump had come away from where it had been previously and was more or less waving in the breeze, which has caused the



*A preview of our under-construction swingset and play area!*

ties to break. Anyway, we made a concrete bed, secured it well, and we fitted it all together until it seemed okay, however I think the pump had been damaged (eg: running dry) for some time before we were able to move it.

The WFD people also erected more fencing, the work of which is still ongoing and is eventually going to be a play area for visiting children, but we still need to figure out what structures are going to go there, like a slide or cubby house. We'll also need to figure out safety requirements to prevent injuries. The swing sets are the main job we need to have done but there has been a lot of other work that needed to be prioritised, such as fitting new toilets and working on the Greta Camp Memorial.

The Greta Camp Memorial was a little hectic because the bricks had to be obtained from that area and while it was a challenge it ended



*The Greta Camp memorial looks great next to the garden, and soon the plants will sprout and grow to cover the trellis arch!*

up looking great! Two bench seats have been bolted down, and then we laid brickwork around the seats and memorial itself.

All in all, I enjoy the variety of work and it's great working with the WFD people along with the HMC and Men's Shed; and I didn't forget you Margaret!

**Darren**

*Work for the Dole Coordinator*



## Diversity Walls

Our latest collaboration was with Sydney based artist Tim Phibs and Northlakes Youth Project who are based in Edgeworth.

The Mural has pride of place on Main Road in Cardiff and is a representation of the Tree of Life with a "diversity" twist.

Pictured here is CEO Annette Gebhardt alongside the Mural.

## Transport

Welcome to spring! The warmer weather is upon us, and I would like to remind clients who are using the bus service to stay inside if the weather is too windy, hot, cold, or rainy. Our main priority is keeping our clients safe and well while travelling with us. If you know you will be away please contact your driver or Coordinator ASAP.

I would like to welcome our new clients on the bus runs. Nikola, Divna, Georgi, Julie, Caty, Janina, Ziggy, Anna, Lola, Pamela and Ida.

Rob is still on his wonderful adventure in Italy and is schedule to return back to us, in October. In the meantime, Denise is getting to know Rob's clients and Gus is getting to know Denise's clients. Gus is doing a wonderful job in his role as bus driver. Emmanuel is still on his own run and is doing a marvellous job with his clients. Well done, team!

A big shout out to clients who are unwell at present and we hope you have a speedy recovery, the buses are not the same without you!



## Conversational English

Every Friday at the HMC people of all ages can join up with our Conversational English classes **FREE OF CHARGE.**

Experienced volunteer teachers are always available for adults who would like to strengthen their English speaking skills in a casual and fun environment. It's also a great opportunity to meet new people and get involved in Australian culture.

Everyone from new arrivals, to students, to people retired from the workplace are all invited to come along and get involved with this amazing opportunity!

**Classes 9.30am - 11.30am, each week in the normal school term.**

For more information please contact us:

Phone 4960 8248  
office@huntermulticultural.org.au  
www.huntermulticultural.org.au



## Pork Souvlaki

Our cook Angela has done a wonderful job supplying us with another simple yet delicious traditional Greek recipe!

“I absolutely love Greek flavours and these juicy pork skewers are a prime example of using those classic flavours in a simple, delicious way. Pork Souvlaki is quick and easy to make, and perfect for cooking on an outside grill or griddle pan on the stove. Serve with a simple Greek-inspired salad for a gluten-free, keto-friendly meal or go all the way and add tzatziki and warm pita bread for a casual feast.

To make, simply arrange Pork Souvlaki marinated in oregano, rosemary, garlic and lemon on a skewer, then grill until golden and juicy for a quick and delicious meal!”



Godfather Espresso is now open for business in the café at the HMC building. Godfather Espresso Café offer a variety of sandwiches, drinks, coffee cakes and sweets.

Godfather Espresso operates under the banner of Flexible Options which is a service funded by the NDIS to provide outcomes for people with a disability. Godfather Espresso provides supported employment for people with a disability. Godfather Espresso is an excellent training opportunity for people with a disability to achieve their goal of independence. Staff at the Godfather Espresso provide support and encouragement to the supported employees and hopefully in time, some of our supported employees can move into open employment.

So come along, bring your friends, meet our crew and enjoy a coffee.

**Thanks, from the team at Godfather Espresso. Contact us on 0407 429 385.**



# Riverlights

Multicultural Festival

Proudly presented by **Greater Bank**

**Saturday 12 October 2019**  
The Levee, Central Maitland  
3.00pm - 9.00pm

Join Us!

[maitlandriverlights.com.au](http://maitlandriverlights.com.au)



BRING THE FAMILY ALONG.

## SILKY OAK FESTIVAL 2019

# CELEBRATING GRETA ARMY & MIGRANT CAMP

2 day event at Camp Road, Greta NSW 2334. Tickets available online.

**9TH & 10TH NOVEMBER 19**

Visit [www.gretaarmycamp.com.au](http://www.gretaarmycamp.com.au) for more info & to buy tickets.



**MILITARY SHOW & PARADE**  
There will be a military parade, air show and pipe and brass bands.



**KIDS ZONE**  
Our kids zone includes a jumping castle, balloons, clowns and more!



**MARKET & FOOD STALLS**  
Unwind with our international food stalls and local market stores.

Hosted by the Central Hunter Business Chamber and the Hunter Multicultural Communities Inc. This family friendly event on the 9th & 10th of November 2019 will include:

Military Parade / Tanks / Armoured Vehicles / Military Vehicles / Military Displays / Light Horse Demonstration / Helicopters & Aircraft / Massed Pipes, Drums & Brass Bands / Ethnic Dancing & Music / Cultural Demonstrations / Food & Wine Tasting / Celebration of History / Colour, Diversity & Multiculturalism / Market stalls / International Flavoured Food Vans / Kids Fun Zone & More!

*This event is an alcohol & pet free zone.*




## TRANQUIL VALE

Many thanks to Tranquil Vale wines for their support of the Greta Migrant Camp Celebration!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR SPARE TIME, SKILLS AND LOVE FOR PEOPLE WITH US?**



**If "YES", come and join our team! Call 4960 8248**

Volunteering will improve someones life significantly & bring you great personal satisfaction. Your work is warmly welcomed & highly appreciated.




**hmc**  
Hunter Multicultural Communities

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**Multicultural NSW**

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