

# SHIRE MATTERS

Issue 195 - July 2025



69 Bashford Street / PO Box 676, Jurien Bay WA 6516 - Phone 08 9652 0800 - Email [council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au) - Web [www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au](http://www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au)



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President	2-4
Council Meeting / The Smoke Column	5
Are You Boggled Mate?	6
Community Development News	7-9
Economic Development News	10



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Tony O'Gorman  
Ph. 0407 799 620

## Peace Run

On Wednesday, 11 June 2025, the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run made its way through Jurien Bay, marking an important milestone in its nationwide journey.

During the visit, Councillor Sharon Young and I had the privilege of accepting the Peace Torch on behalf of the community, a symbol of our shared dedication to peace, unity, and global harmony.



The Peace Run is the world's longest torch relay, travelling 15,500 km across Australia to promote international friendship and understanding.

It was a meaningful moment for our community, reminding us that even small towns like ours play a role in the global movement for peace.



## Baby Boom at the Shire Office

The Shire office has experienced something of a baby boom over the past two years, with Rhiarn welcoming a baby boy, Jasper; Emily welcoming a baby boy, Heath; and Ahne welcoming a baby boy, Luke.

Nikita is expecting a baby girl, due in mid-August. We also had Ella who came on board in 2024, just after celebrating the arrival of her little boy, Huey.

Congratulations to all the new mums and dads. We wish you and your growing families all the very best!



## Coastal Tracks Masterplan

At the June Council meeting, Council endorsed the Coastal Tracks Masterplan, developed in collaboration between the Shires of Gingin, Coorow and Dandaragan. Funding to develop the plan was secured through a grant from the State Natural Resource Management Program, with additional contributions from the three Shires.

In April 2025, the draft plan was released for public comment. We received a strong number of supportive submissions from 4WD groups, community organisations, and individuals across the region.



The Masterplan has also attracted both statewide and national media interest, providing a valuable opportunity to promote our region and highlight this important initiative on a broader stage.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Masterplan aims to:

- Retain popular recreation activities and sites, ensuring visitors can continue to enjoy the natural attractions of the coast.
- Clearly define and signpost four-wheel drive travel routes to reduce track proliferation and protect sensitive landscapes.
- Enhance visitor orientation through improved signage and educational materials, making it easier and safer for people to explore.
- Protect conservation and cultural values by excluding vehicles from sensitive areas.
- Assess and upgrade existing recreation sites to improve visitor experiences, while closing and rehabilitating sites at risk of environmental damage.

Importantly, the Coastal Tracks Masterplan complements and aligns with other coastal and land management strategies, including the DBCA Nilgen–Wanagarren Masterplan and regional coastal strategies.

Together, these efforts support a coordinated and consistent approach across the three Shires.

By carefully managing how and where recreation occurs, the Shires of Coorow, Dandaragan and Gingin are taking proactive steps to protect the environmental and cultural values that make our coastline so special, ensuring they can be enjoyed for generations to come.

A sincere thank you to everyone who provided feedback during the consultation period, and to the dedicated staff from across the three Shires for their work in developing this plan. I look forward to continuing to work together as we move into the implementation phase.

Special thanks to Anthony and Matilda for their contributions, which have helped shape the content above.



## Differential Rates

Now to talk about something we all hate to think about — rates. Rates are one of the main ways local governments generate revenue to provide the services our community relies on and expects.

Traditionally, the Shire of Dandaragan has used a straightforward system where rates are levied based on two types of property valuations:

- GRV (Gross Rental Value) and;
- UV (Unimproved Value).

A "rate in the dollar" is then applied to the GRV or UV to calculate the rates payable by each landowner or property owner.



GRV is typically applied to residential properties, particularly those within townsites. UV is generally applied to rural or undeveloped properties.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

While this method is simple, it does not accurately reflect the type or intensity of activities occurring on some properties. This is where differential rates come in. Differential rating allows a different rate in the dollar to be applied based on the land use or activity undertaken on a property.



For example, properties used for mining or renewable energy generation typically yield significantly higher returns than those used for traditional farming activities.

These higher-return activities also place a greater demand on local infrastructure, such as increased road usage, resulting in higher maintenance costs for the local government.

For many years, the broader rate base has absorbed these additional costs collectively. The differential rating system aims to more fairly recover some of those additional costs from the properties generating them.

In June, Council held a Special Council Meeting to approve advertising its intention to introduce a differential rating system. This may lead to changes in how UV rates are applied in the 2025/26 financial year.

Submissions have been invited from all ratepayers regarding the proposed system. Submissions close on 4 July 2025, and Council will hold another Special Meeting on 9 July to consider the feedback and decide whether to accept, reject, or modify the proposal. The final proposal will then be referred to the Minister for Local Government for consideration.



Implementing a differential rating system will allow the Shire to reinvest additional revenue into community services and infrastructure, such as much-needed upgrades to recreation centres in our towns. Many of these facilities are now over 30 years old and require significant improvements

to meet modern standards, including gender-inclusive changerooms, umpire facilities, and expanded activity areas.

For context, the proposed change could see the Shire's revenue from mining increase from approximately \$60,000 per year to up to \$450,000 per year.

Revenue from existing renewable energy projects on rural land would rise from essentially zero to around \$60,000 per year.

Adopting this system now also sets clear expectations for future projects and provides greater certainty for project proponents around long-term costs.

In the case of renewable energy, landowners will be better informed about the future rate implications and can factor these into negotiations with developers.



# Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 28 August 2025, at the Jurien Bay Council Chambers, commencing at 4:00pm. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## THE SMOKE COLUMN

### HILL RIVER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE SWAP NEW FOR OLD

Last Tuesday, volunteers from Hill River Bush Fire Brigade met in Jurien Bay to receive their new appliance - the Hill River 1.4. The appliance is built over an Iveco Daily light truck, boasting nearly 1500L of water; a stark upgrade from the brigades previous light tanker which only held 500L.

At a weight of only 6 tonne, this little beast packs a punch and is chockas full of features and technology which enhance its capability to meet the needs of our local terrain and environment.

Included in the features:

- Central Tyre Inflation System (CTIS)
- Variable message board
- Solar trickle charging
- Comprehensive crew protection system
- Front mounted monitor capable of delivering up to 300LPM

The truck and the Brigades members will now spend a few months training up on it so it is ready to respond when summer approaches.



**Captain Aubrey Panizza  
inspecting the new truck**



## ARE YOU BOGGED MATE?

An Impactful Evening for Men's Health in Dandaragan.

A recent men's night held in Dandaragan brought together approximately 55 local men for more than just a barbecue and a drink — it was an evening centred around honest, meaningful conversations about men's mental health.

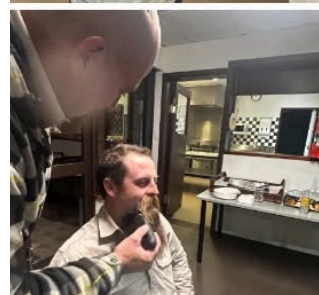
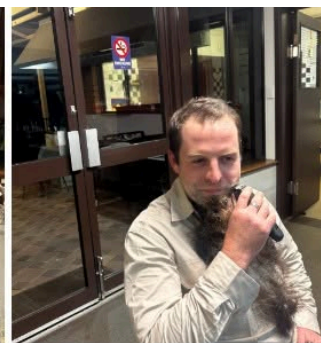
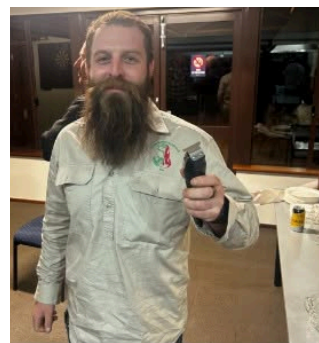
The highlight of the evening was a powerful presentation by Mary O'Brien, founder of Are You Bugged Mate?. Mary shared her personal journey into men's health advocacy, sparked by a compelling article she wrote in 2018 that struck a chord with rural communities across the country. Her talk offered real insight into the often-unspoken pressures faced by men, particularly in regional and farming areas, and emphasised the urgent need to address rising male suicide rates.

Mary's ability to speak openly and directly about these issues resonated strongly with attendees. Her message was both confronting and empowering, urging those in the room to look out for one another, trust their instincts, and start conversations that could ultimately save lives.

This important event would not have been possible without the energy and initiative of local organiser Will, whose efforts, supported by a small team, brought the night together seamlessly. Thanks to community support through ticket sales and donations, the event raised an impressive \$2,000 to support future men's health initiatives.

For those who couldn't attend, we encourage you to visit [areyoubuggedmate.com.au](http://areyoubuggedmate.com.au) to learn more about Mary's work and access valuable resources.

The evening served as a timely reminder of the importance of connection, open dialogue, and supporting those around us. Sometimes, a simple question like "Are you bogged, mate?" can make all the difference.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN 2025/26 GRANTS ROUND SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

At the 27 June Ordinary Council Meeting, recommendations from the Tronox Management & Shire of Dandaragan SRFF grants committee, and the Shire of Dandaragan Community & Environmental Grants Program committee were supported.

### TRONOX MANAGEMENT AND SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND

This fund allocates a sum of money each year for assisting local organisations to provide or improve sporting and recreational facilities and to purchase or improve items of durable equipment.

This year, 16 applications were submitted by sporting clubs and community organisations. Congratulations to the following successful recipients:

Organisation	Project
Badgingarra Tennis Club	Upgrade Hit-Up Wall
Badgingarra Tennis Club	Automatic Ball Launcher
Cervantes Horse Club	Construct Four New Shelters
Cervantes Historical Society	Electric Room Dehumidifiers
Dandaragan Community Centre Management Committee	Picnic Tables
Jurien Bay Bowling Club	Aluminium Bench Seats
Jurien Bay Country Golf Club	Double Bay Driving Net Facility
Jurien Bay Horse Club	Update Arena Fencing
Jurien Bay Kart Club	Replace Transportable Office
Jurien Bay Motorcycle Club	Concrete Wash Down Bay / Install Water Reticulation
Jurien Bay Progress Association	Commercial Grade Marquees
Jurien Bay RSL	Flag Poles
Jurien Sport & Recreation Centre	100-inch Smart TV and Mobile Stand
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$48,693</b>

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT

This grant supports projects that benefit the environment and community through environmental improvement, sustainability education and the promotion and enabling of sustainable living as a way of life.

This year, 2 applications were submitted by community organisations. Congratulations to the following successful recipient:

Organisation	Project
Jurien Bay Regional Herbarium Group	Weed Eradication Program
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

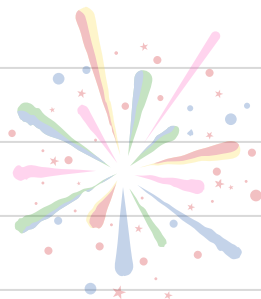


## COMMUNITY GRANT

This grant provide funds to community based organisations and individuals, to support the promotion and development of social, economic, recreational, art and cultural benefits for theresidents of the Shire of Dandaragan.

This year, 12 applications were submitted by community organisations. Congratulations to the following successful recipients:

Organisation	Project/Event
Badgingarra Community Association	Festival of Small Halls
Badgingarra Community Association	Badgingarra Town Christmas Party
Badgingarra Community Association	2026 Badgingarra Community Cricket Match
Badgingarra Junior Sports Club	Junior Sports (Hockey/Tennis/Auskick)
Badgingarra Jnr Sports Club & Badgingarra Playcentre Association	First Aid Training for Club Members
Badgingarra Tennis Club	Professional Tennis Coaching Sessions Block
Cervantes Bowling Club	Cervantes Ladies and Mens Open Fours
Jurien Bay Community Men's Shed	2026 Easter Family Fair
Jurien Bay CRC	Community Dog Show
Jurien Bay Progress Association	Family Fun Day
Jurien Bay Herbarium Group	Plant Giveaway
Turquoise Coast Netball Association	Toddler Rave Disco
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,500</b>



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### OUTWARD BOUND EXPEDITION SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Raymond Carpenter, the recipient of the 2025/26 Outward Bound Expedition Scholarship!

Raymond is excited to take on this new challenge and gain valuable experience. He is looking forward to making new friends, learning survival skills, and enjoying the camping adventure.

We wish him all the best and can't wait to hear about the journey!



## SAVE THE DATE

### NOONGAR SEASON CELEBRATION

### 5 NOVEMBER 2025

### STAFF UPDATE

We are pleased to share four recent staffing updates within the Shire.

Bodie Bucky has transitioned from the Operations Team to take on the role of Trainee Ranger, supporting community safety and local law enforcement.

Diane Clifton joins us as the new Library Officer at Cervantes Library, bringing a passion for literacy and community engagement.

We also welcome Neville Mathews and Heidi Stander as our new Building Maintenance Coordinators, responsible for ensuring Shire facilities are well-maintained and safe.

Please join us in welcoming Diane, Neville, Heidi, and congratulating Bodie on his new role.



***Bodie Bucky***



***Diane Clifton***

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC): Regional - Wheatbelt

A fully subsidised small business development advisory service is available in the Wheatbelt region, known as SBDC Regional.

SBDC Regional offers free guidance to small businesses, social enterprises and commercial not-for-profit organisations on topics including:

- Assessing new business ideas
- Starting a business
- Business licences and permits
- Business planning
- Market research
- Financial management
- Marketing



SBDC Regional Wheatbelt is delivered by IPS Management Consultants, a regionally based business delivering mainstream and Indigenous services across Australia. For information and appointments, call 133 140 or 6552 3300 or visit the Small Business Development Corporation website.

### ARE YOU PLANNING A NEW BUSINESS WITHIN THE SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN?

The first step we'd encourage you to take is to talk to our planning team to find out what's involved in terms of lodging an application for development approval and any other regulatory procedures that may be required.

For more information please email details of your proposed business development to: [dsr@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:dsr@dandaragan.wa.gov.au)

### COMING EVENTS

10 August 2025 - Festival of Small Halls, Badgingarra

26 September – 5 October 2025 - Cervantes Art Festival, Cervantes

8 November 2025 - Turquoise Coast Festival, Jurien Bay