

# SHIRE MATTERS

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Tony O'Gorman  
Ph. 0407 799 620

April has been a very busy month in the Shire, with school holidays, the Turquoise Coast Youth Festival, Easter, and Anzac Day.

## **Turquoise Coast Youth Festival**

The Turquoise Coast Youth Festival is a free event run by the Shire for both local and visiting youth. It was held during the school holidays and attracted young people of all ages with free rides, live music, and food vans.



The event is organised by the Community Services team, with support from staff across the organisation who generously take time out of their schedules to help on the day. The outdoor crew handled most of the groundwork, including erecting marquees and stages and ensuring all rides had access to power. They also took on the major clean-up after the event.

Staff from Administration, Development Services, and Infrastructure also contributed by undertaking surveys and ensuring the event ran smoothly.



I would like to thank all staff for their dedication, both in preparation and on the day, for making this one of the best youth festivals in the region.



## **Easter School Holidays**

Easter school holidays are fast becoming the busiest time of year for the coastal communities of Cervantes and Jurien Bay. Both towns are often at capacity, with additional camping and caravanning options made available at the Sport and Recreation Centres in each town.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our local businesses, particularly in hospitality, experience a significant increase in patronage—which they consistently manage well.

The Turquoise Coast Visitor Centre plays an important role by providing accurate information to visitors and directing them to the many attractions within our Shire. Staff also regularly encourage tourists to explore our inland towns, Badgingarra and Dandaragan, offering a glimpse of life away from the coast.

Sandy Cape has seen a notable rise in visitors since the introduction of the online booking system, which provides travellers with the assurance of securing a camping spot in advance. Previously, many did not travel our way without this guarantee.

The area's popularity now means it is often booked out during peak holiday seasons.



## Anzac Day Services

Anzac Day this year fell on the last weekend of the school holidays, so we saw record numbers at the services in Cervantes, Dandaragan and Jurien Bay. The biggest service was held in Jurien Bay with an estimated 750 people attending. The service was further enhanced by the flyover from the Air Force jet.

Cervantes as usual held the traditional dawn service which also attracted big numbers including locals and visitors to our towns.

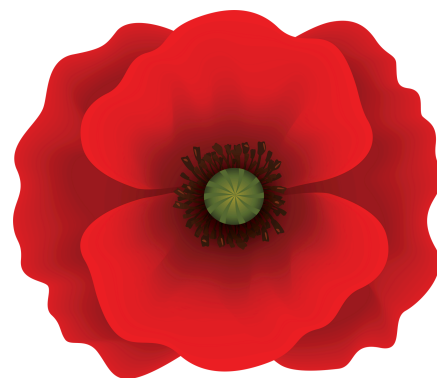
Dandaragan had a break from the traditional service which was normally conducted at Pioneer Park. The 2025 service was held at the school but still attracted a large number of attendees. I am sure that holding the service at the school made a strong impression on students and continues to educate our young people to the traditions of the Anzac Service.

Anzac Day is such an important reminder to us all that war can be so damaging to our communities. The services provide the opportunity to remember those who have fallen. The ode which is

read out at every service, really reinforces that in every war there are casualties and many fatalities.

The last post and reveille followed by the ode gives us all time to reflect and consider how lucky we are that we live in a great country where we cherish our freedoms and acknowledge our history in maintaining those freedoms.

I would like to express my appreciation to the RSL subbranches across our Shire for their dedication in bringing these services to us all on 25 April every year.



## Dandaragan Repertory Group

The Dandaragan Repertory Group is once again taking to the stage their latest production Suite Surrender which will be performed on 16 and 17 May. I attended last years performance and was very impressed with the standard of the production.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Dandaragan Repertory Group are one of only a handful of such groups still operating in regional WA.

The show this year is under the supervision of Andrea Hurst and Maree Brooks. If you fancy a meal with your entertainment the Dandaragan Community Club is right next door and food can be purchased.

This is an excellent group that create extraordinary productions and I encourage everyone to go and experience a very enjoyable night out.

Tickets are available by calling 0417 992 742.



## Council Community Meetings

During the months of March and April, Council held a community meeting in each town.

The Community meetings were held because Council meetings are no longer taking place in each of the towns. Council meetings

are now being audio recorded and can be listened to on the Shire website. The biggest advantage of holding a meeting in each town is that there is not the formality of the Council meeting standing orders.

The community meetings are designed to give ratepayers the opportunity to raise issues that previously they may have raised during the public question time of the Council meeting.

The first of these meetings was held in Cervantes on 11 March followed by Dandaragan, Badgingarra and finally Jurien Bay. Ratepayers still have the opportunity to attend Council meetings and put their questions forward at public question time.

There were many issues raised at the meetings ranging from Western Power including connection costs and timelines to power stability. Jurien Bay Respite Centre availability to residents, industrial land availability and industrial noise in residential areas.

Hearing these concerns has allowed the Council to engage with the providers or businesses to try and

achieve better outcomes. This we have done and we are working with a number of organisations to seek solutions and improvements where the services are lacking.



The informal nature of the meetings means that any issue can be raised and given an appropriate amount of time not limited to the fifteen minutes required at an Ordinary Council meeting.

Councillors and residents have confirmed with me that they thought it was a valuable exercise and that we should continue in future. We will continue this initiative but will likely spread the meetings throughout the year rather than undertaking them all in a short two month period.



# Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 26 June 2025, at the Jurien Bay Council Chambers, commencing at 4:00pm. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP NOW OPEN - OUTWARD BOUND EXPEDITION

The Shire of Dandaragan and the Shire of Coorow invite young people from their communities to apply for the Outward Bound Expedition Scholarship. This expedition is a youth development program designed to advance personal growth, resilience, self-confidence, and leadership skills.

If you or your parents live within the Shire of Dandaragan or the Shire of Coorow, and you are between 15 and 18 years of age, we would love to hear from you.

For more information and to apply for the Outward Bound Expedition, visit the Shire of Dandaragan website or contact Kayla Jones via [cdo@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@dandaragan.wa.gov.au)

Applications close at 4pm on Friday, 30 May 2025.



# COASTAL RECREATION TRACKS MASTER PLAN FOR THE SHIRES OF COOROW, DANDARAGAN & GINGIN

## Project Overview

The Coastal Recreation Track Management Master Plan (the Plan) presents a strategy to allow recreation activities to continue in the project area while protecting its landscape and conservation values. The project area covers the Shires of Coorow, Dandaragan & Gingin.

It investigates all relevant issues pertaining to the provision of a safe and enjoyable recreation setting that is both easily manageable and retains the conservation and cultural value of the reserves.

The Coastal Recreation Track Management Master Plan Survey was completed in May 2024. The survey received responses from 346 participants. Data from the survey assisted in the development of the Master Plan.

The Shires of Coorow, Dandaragan and Gingin received funding from the State Natural Resource Management Program along with co-contributions from the shires and in-kind contributions from land managers, community groups and volunteers to complete the Master Plan.

## Background

The coastal environment holds immense natural beauty and offers a diverse range of recreational opportunities, including but not limited to fishing, swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, hiking, camping, four-wheel driving and wildlife observation. As the stewards of this environment, it is essential that we work together to ensure these activities are sustainable, enjoyable, and appropriately accessible.

Increased visitor numbers, conflicts of user types and alteration of landscape values will continue as more people buy and use four wheel drive vehicles for recreational and tourism use. It is this Recreation Master Plan's aim to protect those landscape values through enabling efficient management and encouraging sustainable recreation use of the lands and waters of the Coast in the Shires of Coorow, Dandaragan and Gingin.

Submissions on the Coastal Recreation Track Management Master Plan must be lodged with the Shire of Dandaragan Jurien Bay Administration Centre or [council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au) by 4.00pm Thursday, 15 May 2025.

Should you require any clarification on this matter, please contact the Coordinator of Environmental Projects on 9652 0800 or [cep@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:cep@dandaragan.wa.gov.au)



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## Temporary Ban on Foreign Purchases of Established Dwellings

On 16 February 2025, the Government announced that it proposed to impose a temporary ban on foreign purchases of established dwellings for at least two years and crack down on land banking.

From 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2027, foreign persons, including temporary residents and foreign-owned companies, cannot apply to buy an established dwelling in Australia unless an exception applies. These limited exceptions will include investments that significantly increase housing supply or support the availability of housing supply, and for the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme.

## ATO Masterclass - Supporting Small Businesses

The ATO has an online learning platform designed by small businesses, for small businesses. “Essentials to Strengthen Your Small Business” provides free and professional courses to improve your tax, super and business management knowledge.

The ATO has the following masterclasses scheduled over the coming months:

- Record Keeping – 26 May
- Claiming Small Business Tax Deductions - June
- Cash Flow for Small Business Success - July
- Goods and Services Tax (GST) - August
- Hiring & Paying Workers – September

“Essentials to Strengthen Your Small Business” is a free, online learning platform where you can upskill in those critical areas. It includes over 30 short, free courses in record keeping, cash flow, deductions, GST, super and more. Register via the ATO website

## Coming Local Events

22 May	Local Businesses Forum and Networking Sundowner <i>(Limited tickets available – register online via Eventbrite by 16th May. Hosted by the Shire of Dandaragan)</i>
21 and 22 June	Creative Craft Rendezvous
26 September – 5 October	Cervantes Art Festival
8 November	Turquoise Coast Festival

