

# SHIRE MATTERS

Issue 145 - February 2021



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### REVIEW OF DOG EXERCISE AREAS IN CERVANTES AND JURIEN BAY

The Shire is seeking feedback from the community to help guide the planning and management of designated off-leash dog exercise areas within Cervantes and Jurien Bay. Currently there are only two beach areas within both towns which legally permit off-leash dog exercising. You are invited to have your say on what Shire managed public open spaces/parks should be designated as off-leash dog exercise areas. Suggestions are welcomed by commenting via our Facebook post, or by email to [council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au) by 5pm Wednesday 31 March 2021.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Leslee Holmes  
Ph. 0408 419 468

This month has been filled with sadness for all of us with the dreadful fires in our State.

My family and I used to have a farm at Gidgegannup and it is heartbreaking to see the devastation that has happened there and around the area. There can be nothing worse than to lose everything you have worked so hard for, and to not even know where you are going to be able to sleep that night. The poor animals that have been lost and injured upset us all. Thankfully no lives were lost and it has brought communities together with some very generous donations to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund. We hope that this will be the end of fires for this year now that the extreme heat seems to be over.

On top of the ongoing trepidation of the dreaded virus this was something that we did not need. I had to travel to Perth last week and I must say I could not wait to get back home. The wearing of masks is pretty uncomfortable and I don't know how people work in cafes and shops having them on all day. The upside is that with doing what was asked of us without question we have once again managed to all stay safe and well.

There are many who seem to have an angle on how this pandemic should have been managed but there can only be one leader and we have to take the best advice we have and get on with it. So far it is paying off for us here in WA and for that we can be very thankful when you look at what is once again occurring in Victoria and across the globe.

On the up side, the rain was absolutely wonderful and all the parks and gardens look like they have been saved from the scorching heat and wind. Hopefully the farmers who will benefit from some early moisture for stock got plenty. I have been reading a lot about climate change and clearly, whether you believe in it or not, our climate is changing and we need to change the way we live. There needs to be some bipartisan conversations from all political parties to guide our planet through this without all the point scoring and one-upmanship we have seen in the past. We are leading the way with renewable energy projects in the Shire of Dandaragan and we hope that this will continue.

I was honoured to host the 2020 Citizen of the Year Awards in Cervantes last week. We had some important guests and a very engaging guest speaker in Carol Redford. Carol's alter ego "Galaxy Girl" kept us enthralled with what is going on in Astro Tourism in our region.

Congratulations to all those nominated, and especially to Ric Ellison from Dandaragan and Luke Johnson from Cervantes who received the 2020 Outstanding Citizen Award and Outstanding Young Citizen Award respectively for the Shire of Dandaragan.

Ric Ellison was nominated by Dandaragan Golf Club for his service to the club, and many years of service to Dandaragan Primary, Dandaragan Repertory Club, St John Ambulance Dandaragan Sub-branch, Dandaragan Community Recreation Club, and Dandaragan Bushfire Brigade, amongst others.

Luke Johnson was nominated by Jurien Bay Emergency Services Cadet Corps as a Platoon Leader, and his service and commitment to Jurien Bay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service, Turquoise Coast Badminton Club and following his Australian Defence Force STEM prize award for Jurien Bay District High School, for his commitments to the field of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics.

Once again it was a great night and I would also like to acknowledge the Cervantes Historical Society and Cervantes CWA who decked the hall out beautifully and presented us with a great supper enjoyed by all.

As a tennis family we have been watching the television scene quite a bit lately. It is very weird to see players without crowds and the fake clapping and cheering going on in the background.



Within our sport there are a few different views on whether this year's Open should have gone on but in the end we still love to watch the great players. Our lovely Aussie Ash Barty is looking good and we are all behind her. Speaking of sport, currently the Shire is developing a Sport and Recreation Plan to guide investment in appropriate sport and recreation facilities to service each of our four town centres. Residents are invited to have your say so please don't miss this opportunity to participate in this process and you can find more this project on the Shire's website under 'Have Your Say' - Current Consultations.

Sport and Recreation Plan workshops are also being held around the Shire with both Badgingarra's and Dandaragan's held earlier this week. Next Monday 22 February 2021 the Cervantes workshop will be held at 5pm at the Cervantes Community Recreation Centre, followed by the Jurien Bay workshop on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 5pm at the Jurien Sport and Recreation Centre. I visited the Senior Citizens group in Jurien Bay for the first time since last October. COVID and Christmas had curtailed their meetings in 2020 and it was so good to see such a great crowd. I do enjoy bringing them up to date with all that is going on in the Shire and to hear what they think and how it all affects their lives.

We have a long weekend coming up soon and I urge anyone travelling to the coast the please take care in 4 wheel drives and motor bikes. We have lost so much of our dunes that protect the foreshores and would hate to see any more damage done. Please treat our towns as if you live here.

Have an enjoyable and safe long weekend.

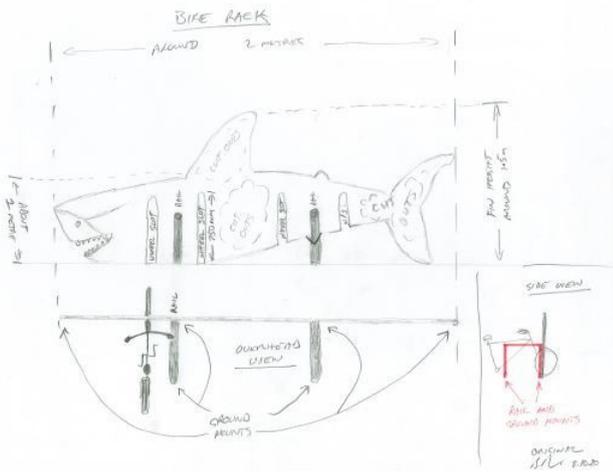


## **CERVANTES NICHE WALL**

There has been progress with the proposed Niche Wall at the vacant Crown land site (Lot 501) off Hansen Bay Road, Cervantes. Native Title rights and interests relate to land or waters possessed under traditional laws and customs acknowledged and observed by Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders, and are recognised by the common law of Australia. Some of the areas where Native Title may exist include vacant or unallocated crown land. Until title rights are determined, no development can occur on vacant crown land.

The six Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) comprising the South West Native Title Settlement were conclusively registered on 27 January 2021. With the ILUAs conclusively registered, settlement effective date will be 25 February 2021. The date for surrender of native title rights and interests over the South West Settlement area is 13 April 2021 being 30 business days after Settlement Effective Date.

The Department Planning Lands Heritage expects that proposals placed on hold for the South West Settlement will be able to be considered further from April/May 2021.



from this....

to this!

### **CERVANTES' NEW GREAT WHITE BIKE RACK**

It's amazing what a simple idea can turn into! Just look at the newest piece of artwork installed in Cervantes this week that also functions as a bike rack.

Infrastructure Manager, Brad Pepper, wanted to create something a bit different but with a coastal theme for a new bike rack in Catalonia Park. What started off as a vision, roughly designed on a piece of A3 paper, soon came to life through the talents of local contractors, Shaun and Jess Turbett of Cervantes Aluminium & Steel Fabrication, who fabricated the bike rack and installed it in Catalonia Park earlier this week.

This bike rack compliments the recent construction of dual use paths that run from Catalonia Park, across the front of the foreshore and through to Talavera and Corunna Roads. This project, in partnership with the Department of Transport, provides additional connectivity within the town to enable residents and visitors to reach key locations on foot or by bike.

In coming weeks, Cervantes residents will also see the addition of a bike repair station at this same location to enable cyclists to make any necessary repairs while out and about.



### **ADMINISTRATION / LIBRARY & VISITORS CENTRE OPENING HOURS**

Current opening hours to the walk-in public for the Shire of Dandaragan Administration Centre / Library & Visitors Centre are Monday - Friday from 9am - 4pm. If you would like to meet with a staff member outside of these opening hours, please call or email to make an appointment.



Some of our crews waiting for the fire to come out of the bush into pasture

## 2021 RED GULLY FIRE

At around 10.00am on Saturday 2 January the Shire of Dandaragan became aware of a fire burning in the Red Gully region in the Shire of Gingin to the East of the Brand Highway.

This set off a sequence of events that was to see approximately 10,283 Hectares of predominantly bush and some farmland burnt out and a fire perimeter of around 140 kilometers develop. A significant amount of the fire burnt within the Shire of Dandaragan's boundary however the fire also posed risks to a number of communities in the Gingin Shire, particularly nearer the coast.

Weather conditions on the day and for the next several days were typified by strong easterly winds and high temperatures, making firefighting extremely difficult.

The fire was moving very quickly and had soon crossed to the Western side of the Brand Highway, resulting in the closure of the Brand Highway and other surrounding roads. Throughout the duration of this fire both the Brand Highway, Indian Ocean Drive and a number of other roads were closed at varying times. Water bombers were in operation during critical times during the duration of the fire and there were many bushfire alerts and advices issued by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Management of the fire was handed to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services by the Shire of Gingin and the Shire of Dandaragan was formally asked to provide support to the northern side of the Moore River and Regans Ford at 11.35am on Saturday 2nd January. This triggered a massive effort by our volunteer fire fighters and Shire Staff over the next 5 days with many people working into the night and into the following days with little rest.

We have talked about it before in Shire matters but we are so fortunate to have a leadership core of extremely experienced and highly competent Volunteer Fire Control Officers that are wonderfully led by our Chief Bushfire Control Officer Mr. Richard Brown. With the support provided by our Shire CEO and our Emergency Management Coordinator this group provided direction and leadership to the rest of our volunteer firefighters throughout the duration of this fire. Our volunteer fire fighters are made up of a very diverse group drawn from all parts of our community and our thanks go to all of them for their efforts, however I must in particular recognise our farmers.

Farmer response is absolutely critical to the success our Shire has in combatting bushfires, they respond in large numbers, bring their own equipment and resources to our fires including items of significant value such as water trucks, front end loaders, fire appliances and disk ploughs to name but a few. They are also highly competent and skilled at fighting bushfires as they have been doing this all of their lives in protection of their own and others property. The Shire of Dandaragan recognises what a fantastic contribution they make to our community every fire season and we thank them profusely for their efforts, skills and expertise. They have the Shire's full support in the fantastic work that they do on behalf of our community.

Over the next 5 days the fire made three significant runs on the northern side of the Moore river with the last major run on Thursday January 7th being driven by a south westerly wind change which pushed the fire in a north easterly direction back to the Brand highway again north of Regans Ford.

Fortunately volunteers were able to pull the fire up at the Brand highway through good planning and preparedness carried out the previous day in anticipation of the wind change. Combined with weight of numbers from our volunteers, provision of disk ploughs to create breaks in pasture and through planned backburning operations, the fire was held at this point.

The Shire continues to build it's relationship with Parks and Wildlife and our volunteers worked side by side with the Parks and Wildlife Fire crews throughout the fire but particularly in creating containment lines from Hunter Road through to the Moore River on the first night of the fire and also in pushing the containment line from Hunter Road through to Mimegarra Road which was a long night of bulldozing a 20km break through thick bush alongside of an active fire. Thanks also to Parks and Wildlife for their efforts in patrolling the fire after it was fully contained, when our resources were running low. We value our growing partnership and look forward to more of the same.

We are also very fortunate to have an earthmoving contractor in our Shire who also brings great expertise to our fire fighting efforts in the Whybrow family. Whilst Whybrow Earthmoving is a contracted supplier the dedication and commitment that they display goes far beyond a normal service for fee arrangement. I'm advised that we had two generations of Dozer operators in both Keith and his grandson Sam operating at the fire at different times and that their efforts and skills were critical. Many thanks for always responding and being there when needed.

St John Ambulance also provided support at the fire so thanks to them. It's always comforting to have your expertise at a fire in the event that things going wrong.

Some of our corporate friends also provided support through the provision of machinery at times during the fire so thank you to Iluka and Tronox for their valued support in sending equipment without prompting. A special thanks to Iluka who also provided meals out of their Cataby Road Camp for our hungry volunteers. Good corporate citizenship is easy to talk about but actually doing it rarely happens so kudos to both of those organisations for stepping up.

While we are on the topic of meals we have to recognise the wives and partners from Dandaragan who also prepared and delivered meals and drinks throughout the fire to our volunteers. Their kitchens were turned into production lines for sandwiches and burgers and meals were personally delivered to the fire ground. What a fantastic effort that was and it really does typify a community banding together in a time of need.

This fire demonstrated yet again that we live in a highly bushfire prone area. We all must take some responsibility for helping our volunteers out by making sure that our own properties are as well prepared as they can be. Please check that your property is ready in case a bushfire happens near you and don't become complacent.



Shows the fire coming out of thick bush on the last day of the fire. Our farmers had used disk ploughs to construct fire breaks at this location.



Weather conditions were so bad that in this open ground the fire was spotting some 200 meters across bare ground from tree to tree.



Aftermath of Fire of Red Gully Fire

## MORE FIRES

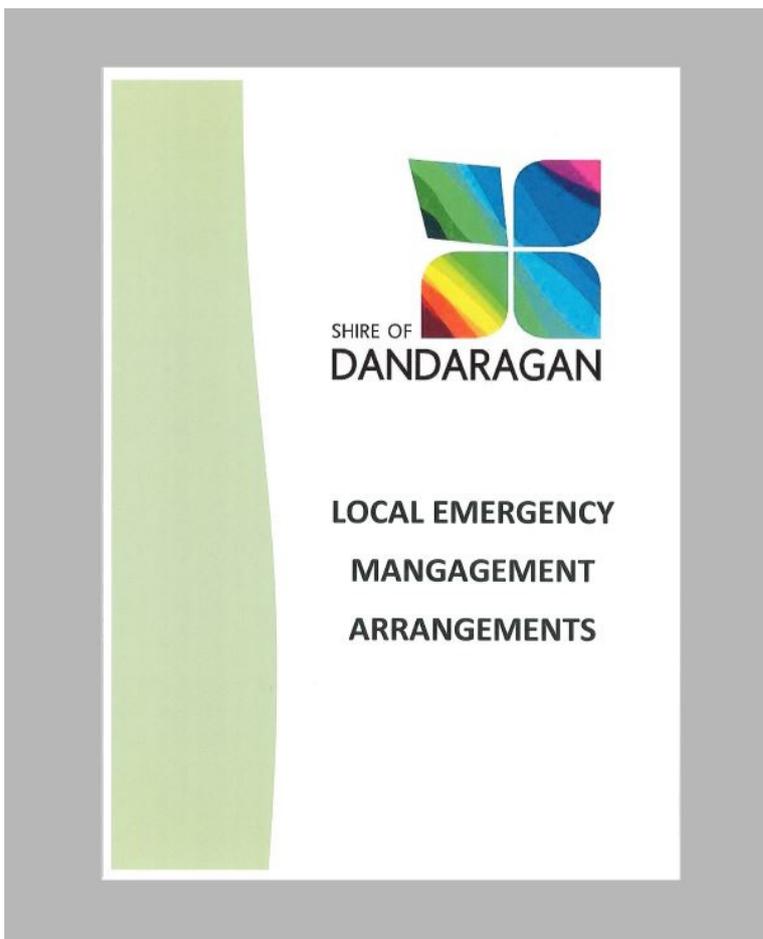
Since penning the above fire article our volunteers have had yet another bout of fires on the night of Sunday 17 January when an electrical storm which passed over the Central West Coastal Region which sparked several fires across the Shire of Dandaragan from around 11.00pm that night through until the early hours of the morning on Monday 18 January. The fires were spread out across the Shire from Colara Road in the North to fires in the South near Regans Ford and across to Rowes Road in the East of the Shire. At stages through that night our ability to attend all fires being reported were stretched to the limit and in some cases it was a case of neighbours helping neighbours until organised help could arrive.

Most of the fires were contained with the help of some light rain and the quick work of our volunteers but two of the fires became significant events with the loss of some 80 hectares of pine plantations across two separate fires and significant areas of lost pasture and stubble. Again our volunteers worked for most of the night and well into the next day to make sure these fires were contained. Our friends from Parks and Wildlife again provided invaluable resources and support on the night and in the days following.

To everyone who backed up yet again for our community a huge thank you. There are some tired people out there.

Sadly as this article is being penned there is a devastating fire burning to the north of Perth and current press releases are indicating that multiple properties have been lost already. Stay Safe.

## EVACUATION CENTRES IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY



During the recent fires the Shire of Gingin opened a Welfare Evacuation Centre within its Shire for people whose properties or the areas in which they live were directly threatened by the Red Gully Fire.

We all hope that we never have an emergency of the scale that requires the opening of evacuation centres however the Shire of Dandaragan is well prepared in the event it is required. The Shire of Dandaragan has recently endorsed a newly written comprehensive Local Emergency Management Arrangements which are comprised of 7 key areas listed below which will guide the Shire and emergency responders during a major emergency.

1. Coordination of Emergencies
2. Risk
3. Evacuation
4. Welfare
5. Shire of Dandaragan Recovery Plan
6. Communications Plan
7. Contacts and Resources Register

As you can see from the above there are two sections of the document (Evacuation and Welfare) that informs and advises Shire Staff of their roles and responsibilities around managing the opening and running of Welfare Evacuation Centres. Our Shire has a number of designated Welfare Evacuation Centres as listed below;

- Jurien Bay Community Centre
- Badgingarra Community Centre
- Dandaragan Community Centre
- Cervantes Community Centre

In the event that the Shire was required to open one of these Welfare Evacuation Centres, information about the opening of the Welfare Evacuation Centre, when to evacuate and other relevant details would be broadcast by a range of methods including the Emergency WA Website, Emergency SMS messaging, ABC Radio, the Shire's website and the Shires Facebook pages and any other means available. So every effort would be made to provide timely information to impacted people and locations if the need to evacuate was required.

The Department of Communities has legislated responsibility under WA Emergency Management Arrangements for the coordination and provision of services to evacuated community members during and after an emergency and or disaster. The Shire of Dandaragan will work together with the Department of Communities and the controlling agency in the event that an evacuation becomes necessary. So while we all hope it will never happen our Shire staff are constantly working on our emergency management arrangements in the background to make sure we are as prepared as possible.

If you have any questions about this topic please feel free to contact the Shires Emergency Management Coordinator Mr. Shane Elliss on 96520800.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2020 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN & YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD NOMINEES

Outstanding Citizen Award Nominees: Sue Lowe, Richard Cooper, Graham Lethlean and Ric Ellison  
 Outstanding Young Citizen Award Nominees: Neave Mayhew, Luke Johnson and Imojen Thompson-Cleak.  
 Congratulations to all our nominees, you are all winners in the Communities eyes but unfortunately we could only pick one, it is a great honour to be nominated for this prestigious award. Nominees are pictured here with Hon Darren West, MLC, Shane Love, MLA and Leslee Holmes, Shire President.

The Shire of Dandaragan would like to thank the Cervantes CWA and Cervantes Historical Society for the amazing spread presented at the Outstanding Citizen / Young Citizen Awards night held Tuesday 9 February 2021, it was enjoyed by all.

### MIKE SHEPPARD POSTHUMOUS AWARD

Prior to the commencement of the Outstanding Citizen Awards Ceremony Cr Holmes on behalf of the Shire of Dandaragan presented a Posthumous Award to Mrs Jean Sheppard in recognition of Mike's outstanding contribution to Council as a Councillor from 2008 to 2017, and as a driving force in the wider community





Shane Love, MLA & Luke Johnson

**2020 OUTSTANDING YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD - LUKE JOHNSON**

Luke was nominated by Jurien Bay Emergency Services Cadet Corps

Luke is one of two Platoon Leaders within the Jurien Bay Emergency Service Cadets. This means he is in charge of and responsible for half (approximately 18) of the Cadets. Within this role Luke leads our cadets for many of the formal ceremonies and takes a lead role in much of the Fire & Rescue training activities.

He is also an active junior member of the Jurien Bay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service where he leads some of the younger junior members and is building skills towards being an active fire fighter with the brigade, having already completed some of the formal Department of Fire and Emergency Service Training.

In addition Luke is the 2020 President of the Turquoise Coast Badminton Club, where he responsible for running formal meetings, organising formal training and tournaments as well as the obtaining of equipment.

Within all three of Luke's key community pursuits he serves as an inspiration to many younger members of the community. His involvement has encouraged a number of additional juniors to join the Jurien Bay VFRS and to pursue excellence as a Cadet. He can be relied upon to organise many aspects of the formal ceremonies and run training activities which up-skill many younger cadets.

Luke has also been awarded the Australian Defence Force STEM prize for Jurien Bay District High School for his commitments to the field of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics.



Hon Darren West, MLC & Ric Ellison

**2020 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD - RIC ELLISON**

Ric was nominated by the Dandaragan Golf Club

Ric commenced as Principal at the Dandaragan Primary School on 27 January 2011 and has been instrumental in co-ordinating the 60th Reunion for the Dandaragan Primary School in October 2013, and has been an educator and mentor for staff and students from 2011 – 2013. He retired from the Education Department in December 2013.

Ric has been a financial member of the Dandaragan Golf Club since 2011, Men's Captain from 2015 – 2018, a committee member since 2011, and coordinated an update of the Dandaragan Golf Club Constitution in 2018.

Ric regularly attends monthly meetings as an active member, supports tournaments held throughout the Central West Coast Golf Association i.e. Badgingarra, Gingin, Jurien Bay, Cervantes, Moora, Greenhead and Lancelin. He also supports Country Week and State Sand Greens. He has been fully supportive of fundraising and catering events, organised Coaching Clinics, encourages new members and makes an outstanding contribution to course maintenance, green sweeping, and course mowing / slashing.

He was a cast member in the Dandaragan Repertory Club production of "Jest at the West" in 2012. Ric is a member of the Dandaragan Tennis Club retiring graciously as Secretary in 2020 after holding the position for 9 years. He is also a member of the Dandaragan Bowling Club since 2011 and a permanent Pennant player since 2018. Ric is also a committee member of the Dandaragan Community Recreation Club and Volunteer bar staff Coordinator since 2018.

Ric commenced being a member of St John's Ambulance Dandaragan Sub Branch in 2011 and has been an Emergency Medical Technician, Sub Centre Driving Instructor, Sub Centre Volunteer Development Officer, takes training when a Paramedic is unavailable, on call 24/7, and held the position of Treasurer since 2019. He has also been a Volunteer Fire Fighter since 2013 and Administrator of Dandaragan Bushfire Brigade since its inception in 2018.

Ric has held positions in 2020 of

- Secretary, Dandaragan Tennis Club,
- Treasurer, Instructor & Driver, St John's Ambulance,
- Administrator, Dandaragan Bush Fire Brigade and,
- Committee Member / Course Maintenance Planner, Dandaragan Golf Club.

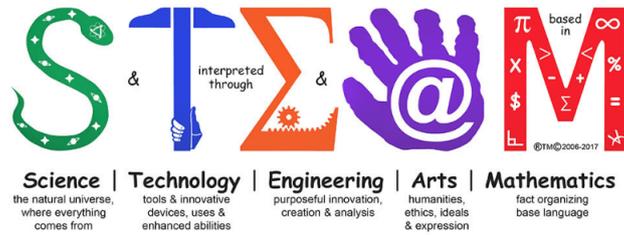


## JURIEN BAY SKATEPARK

Check out this great progress shot of our new skatepark at Dobbyn Park in Jurien Bay. Bowls are being formed. Shelters and lighting are being ordered. Artistic touches are being discussed at our working group. It's all happening. Bring on April.

Thanks Lotterywest for helping make this happen, and Convic for building it for us.





## EDUCATION

Held fortnightly at Jurien Bay Library throughout the school term starting from Thursday the 25th of February, at 9.30 am. It is aimed at the home schoolers but all are welcome.

### WHAT'S ON AT THE LIBRARY

Rhymetime & Storytime will be held fortnightly at Jurien Bay Library throughout the school term starting from Tuesday 16 February at 9.30 am.

Everyone is welcome, bookings are essential please contact the Jurien Bay Library to book your spot on 9652 0810 or [jblibrary@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:jblibrary@dandaragan.wa.gov.au)

Follow the Shires Website "What's on at the Library" for all of the Shires Library Events.



# Ngaalang Moort

## NOONGAR LULLABIES FROM HOME

### NGAALANG MOORT (OUR FAMILY)

The Noongar Lullabies program, coordinated by Community Arts Network, Noongar Language Teacher Charmaine Councillor and musician Phil Bartlett, served as a creative outlet for Noongar families to connect to culture, language and creativity through the challenges of COVID.

Shire of Dandaragan Community Development Officer, Cristi McPhee, recently completed 'Ngaalang Moort (Our Family) Noongar Lullabies from Home', an online Noongar language training and lullabies writing program. Participants wrote and recorded a kwobidak (beautiful) collection of lullabies, inspired by moort (family), experiences close to the koort (heart) and the revival of one of the world's oldest languages.

Indigenous languages are an important part of Australia's identity and the benefits of learning and teaching our local Aboriginal language (Noongar) are well known. For Aboriginal youth, connection to and recognition of their heritage is particularly important for wellbeing and cultural safety in school and the community. For non-Aboriginal youth, it is an important part of understanding our history and moves towards reconciliation to share in that knowledge and recognise indigenous languages as part of Australia's heritage.

The Shire of Dandaragan acknowledges in the Envision 2029 Strategic Community Plan, to recognise the value of creative and cultural arts, and support its continued growth in our communities. The Ngaalang Moort album and translation songbook was launched on 22 January at Fremantle Arts Centre and broadcast live on 100.9fm Noongar Radio. The Shire aims to disseminate the album and songbook across the Shire to early learning programs, local libraries and schools.