

# SHIRE MATTERS

Issue 176 - October 2023

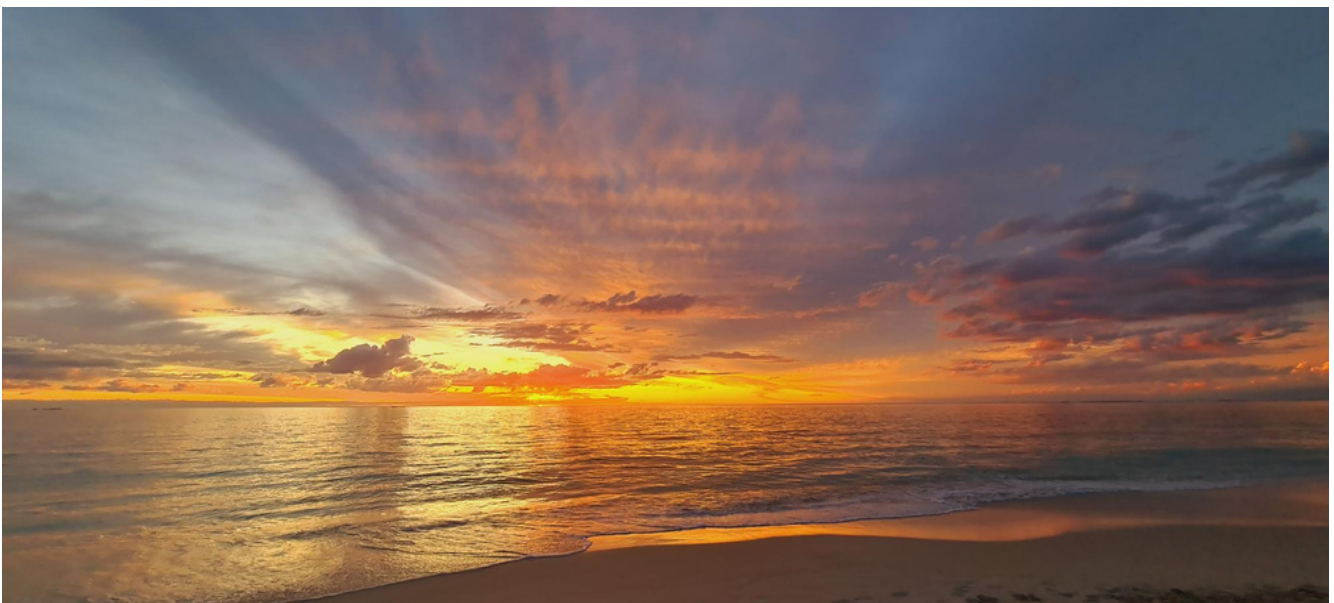


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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Leslee Holmes  
Ph. 0408 419 468

## My last report

I never thought that this day would come when I put pen to paper for the very last time.

As most of you will know, I have not contested the next Local Government Election. The reasons for this are many and varied.

Firstly, I have just reached the ripe old age of 75 and to stay for another four years would make me nearly 80.

I find myself out of step with some of the current beliefs and values of the government of today and indeed, out of step with the "woke" world we now find ourselves in. I am not at all old fashioned but to me we seem to be moving so far in the wrong direction it will take a generation to fix it. This rise of social media has completely altered the way we live and seems to have caused much anguish and discontent in our young people. They are bombarded with all the political clap trap which they see as real information that they have become scared, and it has taken away a lot of the joys of being young.

Young people are hungry for a cause, for purpose, meaning, and identity. They have become fodder for all the political parties at the moment and this is a worry, however, these same young people need to be getting ready to take over this world from the "Old Guard" that they find have let them down on all the important issues.

I have tried very hard to attract younger people onto our council and we are very proud to have achieved that with Councillor McDonald. I am very impressed with the candidates for the upcoming elections and urge you to make sure you vote.

I have had the absolute pleasure of working with some great people in my 12 years as an elected member. Councillors work hard on behalf of the citizens of the Shire of Dandaragan, and it is an extreme honour to be chosen for the role.

I must thank my husband, Peter, for encouraging me to stand for council in the first place. He wanted us to stay in Cervantes at our Caravan Park and thought if I was occupied enough that I would agree.

When I was lucky enough to be elected I became so interested in what could be achieved that I just kept going. Never, at any time have I considered leaving until now. To be elected the first female Shire President was a tremendous honour and very humbling. I was greeted with so much enthusiasm that it made the work easy.

I moved into the President's Office which I don't think had been used for some time and went every day to meet all the people who had voted for me and listen to what they had to say.

That went on for the first 2 years and then, when all the communication strategies were added to our website people no longer needed to come in. They had a voice and they were confident of being heard.

My life changed a lot and to do justice to the role it is all encompassing with so much travelling and phone calls that rather take over your life.

The upside is how much I have learned and how many wonderful people I have met along the way.

Our great Shire is so diverse that from one end to the other we have everything you could wish for. Our agricultural areas are the envy of many and I have been so pleased to see the focus on looking after the land with regenerative farming practises adding so much to region.

I must mention Dandaragan Organic Beef for a sustainable farm/business of which we are all very proud. This family really look after the land and produce a great recognised product.

Christine Smith has taught me so much about regenerative farming and I greatly admire her passion and drive for something she truly believes in.

I am sure that this is the future and even though it will take a lot of convincing in some areas, most farms we know are paying attention to the need to nurture and look after the land for future generations.

One of my favourite parts of the Shire is Badgingarra. It was the first place, many years ago that my husband Peter, then a tennis coach, and our son Matt and the team, came up from Perth to coach a holiday clinic for the tennis club.

We had a great visit and saw first-hand what a strong small community can do.

This has never changed and Badgingarra still punches above its weight all the time. One of my fondest memories is the beautiful hall decked out with lovely wildflowers for the Citizen of the Year presentation. The room was filled with light in late afternoon and had a beautiful glow. Of course, anyone who knows me knows how much I love food and the chance to visit these little communities never disappoints in that space.





# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Leslee Holmes  
Ph. 0408 419 468

Living in Cervantes for 20 years has been the highlight of our lives.

We went to buy a rundown old caravan park and worked 24/7 for a long time until we had enough money to hire enough staff so we could have an assistant to share the load which made life a bit easier.

Living on site was a challenge as you were available all the time and often woken up in the night with all sorts of weird things occurring.

It was convenient that I am a lover of snakes as I often got called out of bed to remove them; one I recall, from the bathrooms where it had decided to camp for the night in the cool of the tiles.

Our young Irish customers liked to party all night to the ire of anyone camping near them and we would get a knock on the door to come and quieten them down. One night a group of kids had migrated to a large tree and happily sat up in the branches with a few beers and their music.

When I asked if they would like to come down they invited me to join them and continue the party. I won't print my reply.

Cervantes, 20 years ago, was full of deckies who also loved a party and whose behaviour was also not conducive to a quiet stay at the caravan park. There was a path through the park that was a thoroughfare to the other side of the town from the pub. Regularly tents would be kicked and often urinated on which as you can imagine caused all sorts of complaints from the visitors. Thank goodness there was no emphasis on social media then that there is today, or we would never have had any customers.

We closed the gate so that they would have to go around which annoyed the school children who also used it as a quick way to school.

The other problem that we endured in those days was the Esky Run where young locals would come through in the dead of night and raid the eskies of the guests especially at busy holiday times. The worst times were Christmas when sophisticated groups would come around the caravan parks with trailers etc and steal kids bikes that were christmas gifts to sell in Perth.

Dale Simmons solved all our problems with the young locals by making sure that they behaved well if they wanted to play footy for the Tiger Sharks. We then enjoyed a quiet immunity which lasted for many years. Those were the days.

Another highlight of my time in Cervantes is watching the rise of a world class business in the Lobster Shack. David Thompson had a dream and he was able to fulfil it by sheer guts and determination. This business is now the 'go to' place for every international visitor that comes to WA. Sadly, David passed away over 12 months ago after a long fight with cancer, but his legacy keeps on growing thanks to his sons and daughters in law who will now strive to take the business to another level.

The work that I have been part of in Jurien Bay has given me so much satisfaction, especially as it has been so well received by both the residents and the travelling public. The COVID pandemic slowed us down a bit but my very able CEO, Brent Bailey, encouraged us to 'think big' and to concentrate on what we could do with our amazing foreshore. We certainly listened to him and as you know it has been a great success. I have to thank my Councillors for their enormous trust in our staff with the team working so hard for the great foreshore we have today.

The team at the Shire of Dandaragan were so invested in this project that everyone, regardless of their jobs, helped with the final planting of the gardens so that we could get it open.

Jurien Bay has become the second fastest growing coastal town in WA. Only Busselton is growing at a faster rate.

We have all the problems found in every other town of which lack of housing is probably the biggest problem but hopefully my successors, together with the State Government, will find some good solutions.

As I have said before, I will now be living full time in North Fremantle but will always have a strong connection to Shire and its citizens.

The staff at the Shire are among the best we have ever had and I know that they will work hard to create a great environment for you all.

I wish you all prosperity, good health, and hope that your new Council will serve you well.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I would like to take a moment to celebrate a significant milestone in our community, as our highly regarded Shire President, Leslee Holmes, embarks on a well-deserved retirement.

Leslee has been an exemplary leader and a tireless advocate for our community. Over the years, her dedication, unwavering commitment, and visionary leadership have left a mark on our region. Her ability to bring people together, foster collaboration, and drive positive change has been truly remarkable.

Leslee has not only been an outstanding Shire President but also a symbol of inspiration for countless individuals, especially young women in our region. Her commitment to this leadership role has been a testament to her hard work, dedication and determination to drive a positive change in our community.

On behalf of every Council member and the entire Shire staff, we extend our heartfelt best wishes to Leslee as she embarks on her retirement journey.

Brent Bailey  
Chief Executive Officer

We are thrilled to share that during the recent WALGA convention, Leslee received a well-deserved merit award in recognition of her tireless dedication and exceptional contributions.

This award is a testament to Leslee's commitment and her ability to go above and beyond as a Shire President. Her hard work, leadership and passion have positively influenced the community. This award is a very fitting conclusion to her term here at the Shire of Dandaragan and we couldn't be more proud.

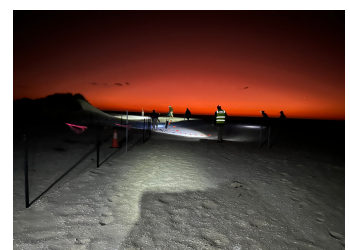


## Nomination for Outstanding Ranger of the Year Trona Eyden

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Trona for her exceptional achievement in being nominated for the prestigious WA Ranger Association, Ranger of the Year Award.

While Trona may not have clinched the title this time, her nomination stands as a great recognition of her dedication and contributions to our Ranger services team and the wider community.

Trona's passion in her role was recognised by the local community member nomination process who made particular reference to her work protecting local fairy tern nesting sites and addressing invasive / feral animals. Congratulations Trona on this well-deserved recognition.



# Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 26 October 2023, at the Jurien Bay Council Chambers, commencing at 4.00pm. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## **CERVANTES & JURIEN BAY COASTAL ADAPTATION INVESTIGATION**

For the past two years, Water Technology on behalf of the Shire has been undertaking a detailed coastal adaptation investigation to identify the coastal management options for the central townsite coastal management units in Cervantes and Jurien Bay.

The draft investigation is now available for public review and submissions are invited until the close of business Friday 13th of October 2023.



Public information sessions on this investigation will be held on Wednesday the 27th of September 2023 as follows:

Jurien Bay - 12pm at the Jurien Bay Education and Conference Centre

Cervantes - 5:30pm at the Pinnacles Motel Function Room

The two primary coastal management actions recommended by the investigation for mitigating coastal erosion hazards in the study areas are:

- **Planned / Managed Retreat:** Use land-use planning instruments and long-term strategy to systematically move assets with low adaptive capacity out of the hazard zone. This is recommended for all of Jurien Bay central foreshore and the southern end of Cervantes central foreshore. As no built assets are projected to be unacceptably vulnerable until 2070, initial recommendations focus on coastal monitoring and appropriate land-use planning to allow for implementation of voluntary acquisition if required in future decades.
- **Protection by Beach Groynes:** Undertake the construction of groynes with beach renourishment as necessary to prevent erosion of natural and built assets. This is recommended for the northern end of Cervantes central foreshore.

If you require any clarification with this matter, please contact the Principal Planning & Building Officer, Rory Mackay on 9652 0800 or [rorym@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:rorym@dandaragan.wa.gov.au)



# VOTING IN THE OCTOBER 2023 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The State Government is putting into action the most significant reforms to the local government sector in 25 years. The reforms will increase the transparency, accountability and efficiency of local government in WA.

One of the key reforms is the change from 'first past the post' system of voting to optional preferential voting (OPV).

This change will be introduced for the October 2023 local government elections which will now be in line with state and federal elections.

OPV will strengthen democracy by giving ratepayers a greater choice of candidates.

You can find more information about the reforms to the local government sector on the DLGSC website at [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/lg-act-reform](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/lg-act-reform) or use this QR code.



**How to vote under the optional preferential voting system**

It is really easy and it is all about choices – your choices. Just imagine there are three candidates. You can:

**1 Vote for just one candidate**

Just put a number 1 next to the name of that candidate.

SMITH, John	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOE, Jane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CITIZEN, Neville	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2 Vote for some**

Just put a 1 next to the name of the candidate you like best and a 2 next to your second choice.

SMITH, John	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOE, Jane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CITIZEN, Neville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**3 Vote for all**

Put a 1 in the box for the candidate you like best and then a 2 for your second choice and a 3 for your third choice. If there are more candidates you just keep numbering if you want.

SMITH, John	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DOE, Jane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CITIZEN, Neville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## COMMUNITY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Every community has local heroes; those people who make our community a better place. This year, more than ever, you may know of an individual, who made an outstanding contribution to our community.

Nominate them for the Community Citizen of the Year Awards in one of the following categories:

- Community Citizen of the Year
- Community Citizen of the Year (Youth) – under 25 years

To find out more and to make a nomination please visit the Shire Website. Applications close 31 October 2023

**Community Citizen of the year Awards**

**Nominate now**

Presented by: Principal Partner:

Media Partners:

# COMMUNITY UPDATE



## LEEUVIN SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the Shire of Dandaragan offers a fully funded scholarship for a voyage on board the STS Leeuwin II, for all young people aged between 15 and 18.

Congratulations to this year's recipient, 17-year-old Jurien Bay resident Lincoln Deane. Lincoln is excited for the opportunity to develop his skills and meet new people. We look forward to hearing of his experience upon his return.

## ENVISION 2033 SURVEY

The Envision 2033 Survey is a vital component of our community engagement initiative aimed at shaping our future. While in-person workshops were held to gather valuable insights and ideas, we understand that not everyone could attend.

The survey which is available on our website or via this QR code provides an accessible and convenient way for those who missed the workshops to contribute their thoughts, preferences and aspirations for our shared vision 2033. Your input through this survey is invaluable in helping us make informed decisions for a brighter future.

### Envision 2033 Workshop Survey



## Club Connect Project



## CLUB CONNECT PROJECT SURVEY

The Shire of Dandaragan is excited to share that we have successfully secured funding from the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries to support and strengthen our valued clubs and community groups.

To maximise the impact of this opportunity, we intend to offer free workshops and a mentorship program (limited numbers). Your valuable input is vital in determining what topics would be most beneficial for your group and the most suitable time/date options for these initiatives. There are only a few more days to complete the survey.

Save  
The Date

## SPRAY THE GREY - YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Spray the Grey Youth Festival will be held on 10 April 2024 at Fauntleroy Park, Jurien Bay from 11am-4pm. It will be a fun filled day with free entertainment and amusements.

Stay tuned for further information.



**4 September – 27 October**

**Scribblers Festival  
Explore the World of Creative Bravery**

Scribblers Festival celebrates creativity, literacy, and the special place local libraries hold in the hearts of children and parents. Each year over 15,000 feather shaped bookmarks are hidden in the children's and young adult section of libraries across Western Australia with five rare Golden Feathers waiting to be found by lucky young readers as part of the annual Golden Feather Hunt.

Feather finders have the opportunity to win a variety of prizes, but most of all, fuel their love of reading and libraries.

The Scribblers Festival is an annual festival of literature and arts for young people. It invites young people and the young at heart to celebrate the magic of storytelling and brings together authors, illustrators, and other storytellers from Perth, across Australia, and around the world to empower and engage young readers through interactive sessions and workshops.

Sound like fun? Feather shaped bookmarks are scattered throughout the children's and young adult sections of our Shire of Dandaragan libraries.

Don't miss any of the action - Golden Feather Hunt at your local library.

#### **How To Start Your Hunt:**

1. Visit your local Shire of Dandaragan Library
2. Select a book you would like to borrow
3. Check out the book with the help of your friendly librarian
4. Cross your fingers and open the book...
5. If there is a feather-shaped bookmark inside do a victory dance and bring the feather to the librarian who will know exactly what to do next
6. If there isn't a feather-shaped bookmark inside, chin up - you still have a great book to read AND you can have another hunt when you borrow your next book.

**Golden Feathers** - There are only FIVE of these rare feathers hidden in the whole of WA. The lucky finder of one of these, wins the grand prize of a VIP Festival Pass, iPad, and signed book pack

**Silver Feathers** - There are only 20 of these lucky feathers in the hunt. Find one of these and you win a signed book

**Ruby Feather** - Each participating library has one of these hidden in the shelves, and comes with an instant book prize

**White Feathers** - Colour these in, post a pic to social media tagging us @scribblersfest and @shireofdandaragan and you could win an instant prize!



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Coming Soon

We're going digital! The Shire of Dandaragan will soon offer 'Shire Matters' in an optional digital format. In addition, we will introduce a regular e-newsletter specifically for community groups, called 'Community Connect'; and one for local businesses titled 'Business Matters'.

You can register to receive one or more of the Shire's e-newsletters by visiting the home page of our website. (At any time, readers can unsubscribe).

If you are a business owner / manager and want to ensure that you are on the 'Business Matters' mailing list to receive relevant industry news, grant information, business development and training opportunities, business networking events and more, you can also email your contact details direct to [edm@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:edm@dandaragan.wa.gov.au)

## Regional Tourism Training Workshops

Tourism Council WA is delivering the latest information, research, and trends relevant to your business in upcoming tourism workshops across the state, including the brand-new 'Optimising Instagram for Tourism Businesses' and 'Accessible Tourism' workshops.

Workshops will take place in Esperance, Geraldton, Kalbarri, Kalgoorlie, Mandurah and Margaret River from September to November.

More information is available: [Training Workshops](#) | [Tourism Council WA](#)

Useful Tools and Resources for Small Business  
[Small Business Cyber Security Guide](#) | [Cyber.gov.au](#)  
[Tools and templates finder](#) | [business.gov.au](#)

## Business and Industry Grant Opportunities

Grant Name	Grantor	Focus	Min / Max Grant	Closes
Financial Support to Hire an Apprentice	The Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System (Incentives System)	Business and Industry	Variable	Ongoing
Funding for Major Events that Promote Tourism in WA	Tourism WA	Tourism / Economic Development	Variable	12 months prior to proposed event