

# SHIRE MATTERS

Issue 178 - December 2023



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Tony O'Gorman  
Ph. 0407 799 620

## Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

Jurien Bay was a finalist in the General Appearance section of the Tidy Towns sustainable communities' awards. The towns Foreshore Precinct was the focus of the submission and received high praise from the judges.

The other finalists were Walpole, Sandstone, Ongerup, Meekatharra with the winning entry coming from Paraburdoo.

We were up against some stiff competition, but our project is something that across the Shire we can be proud of. The work undertaken by our community, and the Shire staff puts us in the top six towns in the state for general appearance.

Since completion there has been increased activity and many more locals and tourists enjoying the area. The skatepark is continuously used not only by the youth but by many more mature skaters, and riders. It has quickly gained a reputation as one of the best skate parks on the coast.

The nature playground I believe is second to none, (based on user feedback from my grandkids). I ride past most days and there are parents with children of all ages enjoying the playground. The addition of the coffee van and the café nearby is an added bonus for those parents who need a coffee kick or a quick bite to eat.

The southern area of the foreshore now has accessible power and is a great events space with the Community Market and Markets by the Bay groups holding regular markets.

The Spray the Grey Festival will be returning in April 2024 and hopefully we will soon see many more events using this area.

## Yandin Community Fund

Round 7 of the Yandin Community Fund, grants were awarded in November with the lucky recipients receiving a total of \$57,000 in funds.

The recipients were:

- Dandaragan Primary School with a \$4,905 for shade sails
- Dandaragan Bowling Club received a \$1,000 for the ongoing Men's Open Fours Tournament.
- The final grant of \$51,000 went to the Dandaragan Heritage and Cultural Centre Incorporated. The grant will contribute to architectural plans and initial ground works for the future museum.

Congratulations to all the recipients and I look forward to seeing the completion of the projects into the future.

## Envision 2033

Envision 2033 is the Shire's future planning tool and is reviewed every two years. The review consists of community consultation workshops, online surveys and feedback invited from across our community. Many of you have participated in the review over the past couple of months.

Thank you to all those who provided their time and input into developing the Shire's future plan. The Council have now received a summary of all your comments and will consider the feedback as we develop the next stage of planning for the best outcomes for our Shire.

## November Council Meeting

Minutes of all Council meetings are available on the Shire website usually within two business days after Council meetings. For those of you that don't have the time to read all the minutes I will summarise some of the items that were considered here.

The usual items dealing with Shire payments and the Shire's statements of our current finances are discussed at all Council meetings. This is a requirement of the Local Government Act but it also ensures that you, the residents, are kept informed of the Shire's finances.

Following dealing with the Shire's finances we deal with issues relating to the Shires Corporate and Community Services area. This month we received a request from the Cervantes Country Club Inc committee requesting that the Council consider writing off any outstanding debt that the group had with the Shire. This is required so that the committee can proceed with winding up of the Association.

This recommendation from the officers was that we write off the outstanding debt, since the group had substantially paid down a large proportion of the debt over the past three years. The premises has now been leased to private operators that will be paying an annual commercial lease amount to the Shire, so to continue to pursue the debt would have no benefit to the Shire. Full details can be found on the Shire website.



**Envision 2033**  
Shire Of Dandaragan



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Development Services

The Development Services portfolio deals with all matters relating to the orderly planning and development of our community. They operate under a very complicated system of regulation and compliance. One of the key guiding documents to ensure this orderly planning and development is the Local Planning Strategy.

A review of the Shire's strategy has been undertaken by Shire officers in consultation with the State Planning authorities. This review has now been submitted to the Department for Planning. The most likely outcome is that the Shire will undertake preparation of a whole new Local Planning Strategy, to include the many amendments that have been made over the years to our existing strategy. It can deal with densities, the inclusion of holiday home or short stay accommodation issues and many more technical issues that now must be considered when undertaking proper planning and development of our communities.

There will be a public consultation period and I urge people to get involved in that process to make sure that our communities views are well represented in future strategies.



Council also considered the addition of an east west runaway at the Jurien Bay Airport.

This is something that has been worked on for a number of years and now has approval from Council to go to the next stage of seeking grant funding and establishing an east west runaway. This will be especially appreciated by the RFDS and the fire fighting air wing on those occasions when we have emergencies in our Shire.

The east west runway will facilitate take off and landings when we have strong crosswinds on our current runway.

## Christmas New Year

With the holiday season fast approaching our towns, particularly the coastal ones, will play host to many tourists that come here for a relaxing getaway. As usual we welcome them and wish them all good times.

I would also like to wish all our residents a happy and safe Christmas and New year. Please enjoy yourselves but always make sure that you and your families are safe both on the roads and in your homes.

Please be aware that this period is also in the peak of the bushfire season so stay vigilant, make sure you have your bushfire plan in place and that your visitors know what to do in case of fire.

We all have a role to play in these emergencies, but our volunteer emergency services, and our police are central to ensuring the safety of all of us in the community. Please support them and follow their instructions should the need arise.

I am sure you will all join with me in wishing our Shire staff a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

They are the heart of our organisation delivering good governance and services to the Shire throughout the year. Please enjoy your break and we look forward to working together in 2024.



*Merry Christmas  
to all our  
Shire Residents,  
from the  
Shire President  
and Councillors*

# Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 14 December 2023, at the Council Chambers, Jurien Bay, commencing at 4:00pm.

There will be no Ordinary Council Meeting in January. The next Ordinary Council Meeting after Christmas will be held on Thursday 22 February 2024, at the Council Chambers Jurien Bay, commencing at 4:00pm.

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## GENERAL WASTE AND RECYCLE COLLECTION CHRISTMAS WEEK 2023

We have made the following arrangements for the collection of services which would normally be done on Monday the 25th of December 2023.

The collections due for General waste in Cervantes, Dandaragan, Badgingarra and Jurien Street bins on Monday the 25th will be serviced on Saturday the 23rd of December 2023.

The collections due for Recycle in Jurien Bay on Tuesday the 26th will be serviced on Wednesday the 27th of December.

All services will be as normal for the New Year week.

Please see below schedule for extra recycling pick up.



Weekly Recycling Collection 23/24 - Christmas Period Jurien Bay, Cervantes, Alta Mare and Jurien Bay Heights						Extra Weekly Pickup
Tuesday, 19 December 2023	Zone 1	Tuesday, 19 December 2023	Zone 2	Wednesday, 20 December 2023	Zone 3	Zone 1 & Zone 3
Tuesday, 26 December 2023	Zone 1	Tuesday, 26 December 2023	Zone 2	Wednesday, 27 December 2023	Zone 3	Zone 2
Tuesday, 2 January 2024	Zone 1	Tuesday, 2 January 2024	Zone 2	Wednesday, 3 January 2024	Zone 3	Zone 1 & Zone 3
Tuesday, 9 January 2024	Zone 1	Tuesday, 9 January 2024	Zone 2	Wednesday, 10 January 2024	Zone 3	Zone 2
Tuesday, 16 January 2024	Zone 1	Tuesday, 16 January 2024	Zone 2	Wednesday, 17 January 2024	Zone 3	Zone 1 & Zone 3
Tuesday, 23 January 2024	Zone 1	Tuesday, 23 January 2024	Zone 2	Wednesday, 24 January 2024	Zone 3	Zone 2
Tuesday, 30 January 2024	Zone 1	Tuesday, 30 January 2024	Zone 2	Wednesday, 31 January 2024	Zone 3	Zone 1 & Zone 3
Tuesday, 6 February 2024	Zone 1	Tuesday, 6 February 2024	Zone 2	Wednesday, 7 February 2024	Zone 3	Zone 2

# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Shire of Dandaragan Grant Round 2023/24

The grant round for 2023/24 had numerous successful applicants. The entire fund allocation was utilised, without carrying over. Several projects have already been accomplished, showcasing the effectiveness of the programs support. Below are photos of the completed projects so far.

### ***Tronox Management and Shire of Dandaragan Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund Weather Station Box and Support Poles – Dandaragan Bowling Club***



### ***Shire of Dandaragan Community Grant Jurien Bay Community Dog Show – Jurien Bay Community Resource Centre***



### ***Tronox Management and Shire of Dandaragan Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund Airius Ceiling Fans – Stadium – Jurien Bay Sport and Recreation Centre***





Join in as we celebrate

# Community Recognition Awards

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Young Citizen / Citizen of the Year

Club, Community Group or Association  
of the Year

Service to Club, Community Group or  
Association

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4 February 2024

4.30pm - 7.30pm

Fauntleroy Park, Jurien Bay WA 6516

This is a community picnic style event and we encourage  
you to BYO chair

Entertainment by 2 Broke Boys

P (08) 9652 0800

E council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au

69 Bashford Street, Jurien Bay WA 6516



## NEWEST AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN

On Thursday, 23 November 2023 we had Andrew Frost attend a Citizenship Ceremony and become the newest Australian Citizen living in the Shire.

The Ceremony, held at the Cervantes Country Club was officiated by Shire President, Tony O'Gorman in the presence of Councillors, staff and Andrew's guests. Congratulations Andrew.





# Short-Term Rental Accommodation



The WA State Government has announced reforms for un-hosted short-term rental accommodation. As part of the reforms an incentive scheme will be on offer for six months, to encourage property owners to return their short-term rental accommodation properties to the long-term rental market.

The scheme offers a \$10,000 payment to property owners willing to switch their short-term rental accommodation properties to the long-term rental market. To qualify for the \$10,000 incentive scheme payment, you must have already had an entire property for rent on short-stay booking platforms, such as Airbnb or Stayz, within the past six weeks. Applicants will be required to provide a minimum 12-month lease agreement to new, long-term tenants through the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.

To protect tenants and ensure the new homes are affordable, a maximum rent chargeable by location (region) will apply (\$550 per week for the Wheatbelt). The maximum rent chargeable by location allows room for property owners to charge rents that reflect the conditions for where their property is located.

There will be a two-stage payment process that consists of a \$4,000 payment once eligible applications are approved, and a \$6,000 payment after the long-term tenancy rental agreement reaches 12 months. Short-term rental accommodation property owners can now submit a simple Expression of Interest (EOI) online, with the formal application process expected to begin by the end of 2023.

For more information on this incentive scheme please go to the Government Of Western Australia website.

These reforms also respond to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation, which recommended the establishment of a State-wide registration scheme and updates to planning guidance for short-term rental accommodation properties.

Property owners will be required to register all short-term rental accommodation properties in WA before being able to advertise and take bookings, including on online booking platforms. Registrations are expected to open mid-2024 and all short-term rental accommodation properties, including those that do not require development approval from the Shire of Dandaragan (such as hosted short-term rental accommodation properties), will need to be registered by 1 January 2025. Short-term rental accommodation property owners that are already required to have development approval must provide their Shire of Dandaragan development approval number at registration.

For more information on this registration scheme please go to the Government of Western Australia website.

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## POSITION VACANT

### MAINTENANCE GRADER OPERATOR FULL TIME POSITION

**\$65,000 - \$75,000**

**(LOCATION - JURIE BAY/DANDARAGAN)**

Time for a "Sea Change"? A great opportunity is available for an enthusiastic and motivated maintenance grader operator who is looking to work and live in one of the State's most desirable coastal locations based in Jurien Bay, only 500m from the main beach in town.

This role is an integral part of our business, working 76 hours each 9-day fortnight, with the opportunity for overtime, and is an ideal position for someone seeking a great work life balance. To fulfil the role, applicants must be able to demonstrate initiative, competent grader operational skills, and possess an outgoing and friendly disposition.

This opportunity will allow the successful candidate to join a diverse and collaborative team culture, along with flexible working arrangements and generous employment conditions.

This opportunity also allows flexibility to live in either Jurien Bay or Dandaragan.

If this valued role appeals to you, an information package is available on the Shire's website or contact Sharon McArdle HR Coordinator [cghr@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:cghr@dandaragan.wa.gov.au) or on (08 9652 0800).

Applications close at 4:00pm on Friday 12 January 2024.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

## ATTENTION EMPLOYERS – NEW RULES FOR FIXED TERM CONTRACTS

As part of the Australian Government's Secure Jobs, Better Pay workplace law changes, rules about using fixed term contracts are changing on 6 December 2023.

The changes include new rules about:

- how long fixed term contracts can be for
- extending fixed term contracts
- offering new contracts that are substantially similar to previous contracts.

For more information please visit the Fairwork website.

## CONTRATULATIONS LOBSTER SHACK

LOBSTER SHACK in Cervantes was awarded a Silver Medal in the WA Tourist Attractions category at the recent Tourism Council of Western Australia '2023 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards – Business Awards'.

The Thompson family began in business back 1966 with one crayfishing boat; growing into a fleet of modern crayfishing boats and a vertically integrated rock lobster fishing, farming, tourism and hospitality operation today.



**CERVANTES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

In 2008, the Thompson family, led by David Thompson, launched the Indian Ocean Rock Lobster receiveal and processing plant in Cervantes. Just two years later, in 2010, the family ventured into the hospitality and tourism industry with the establishment of the Lobster Shack on the Cervantes foreshore.

In the decade following, the business continued to expand, commencing export sales of lobster to China and launching boat tours to view sea lions and experience the pristine waters off Cervantes in 2012. Tourist demand continued to grow, and so did the family business, with expansion of the processing plant in 2018, followed by expansion of the Lobster Shack restaurant in 2020.

As a premier tourism operator in the Wheatbelt region of WA, Lobster Shack offers locals and tourists alike the opportunity to purchase live, raw or steamed lobster chilled or frozen to enjoy at home; relax on the beachside deck whilst feasting on succulent lobster, fresh fish, prawns, and abalone in the licensed restaurant; stay in local accommodation at the Cervantes Lodge; experience firsthand a factory tour that shows how live lobsters are captured, transported, sorted and processed for sale; and, take a sea lion tour to the islands around Cervantes to see one of the world's rarest seals, or experience a SUP – stand up paddle board adventure.

It is great to see the Tourism Council of WA recognise the hard work and clever vertical integration that has created an internationally recognised 'not to miss' tourist destination experience within the Shire of Dandaragan. Congratulations to the Thompson family and Lobster Shack.

## IMPORTANT HOUSING SURVEY COMING IN DECEMBER

Please help us find better housing solutions for workers in our Shire.

The Shire of Dandaragan is participating in a study with the Wheatbelt Development Commission to analyse housing demand for key workers in the Dandaragan Shire and across the Wheatbelt region.

The study seeks to understand housing stock needs currently and into the future. To help understand housing needs, we would like input from the business community, farming enterprises, key workers and other interested community members. We'll be emailing businesses soon with the survey link, to be completed by 15 January 2024. Or contact [edm@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:edm@dandaragan.wa.gov.au) for more details and the opportunity to participate. Your input is critical to help show the 'real' issues being experienced by businesses and workers alike.



## CONGRATULATIONS DANDARAGAN HERITATE AND CULTURAL CENTRE

Shortly after winning a \$5,000 Economic Development Grant from the Shire of Dandaragan, the Dandaragan Heritage and Cultural Centre (DHCC) committee was awarded a \$51,000 grant from the Yandin Community Enhancement Fund, to support the design and development of the Centre.

Located near Cataby, the Yandin Wind Farm is a RATCH-Australia & Alinta Energy investment managed by Alinta Energy. Once a year the Yandin Wind Farm awards up to \$57,000 in grants to community groups making a positive difference within the Dandaragan region.

The next round of the Yandin Community Enhancement Fund will open in September 2024, offering grants of up to \$10,000.

Celebrating the grant win, pictured L-R: Rose Glasfurd DHCC; Sahachthorn Putthong, CEO Ratch Australia; Sjoerd (Stuart) Algera, Asset Engineer Alinta Energy; Mark Cubitt and John Brown, DHCC.



## INDUSTRY GROWTH PROGRAM OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Stage 1 of the program invites start-ups and innovative small-to-medium businesses to apply for expert advice to support getting their good ideas to market. Stage 1 allows SMEs to receive advice from a various Industry Growth Program Advisers on:

- commercialisation and growth strategies
- funding avenues
- market testing
- business models
- building networks.

Stage 2 will focus on grant funding for SMEs who are operating in priority areas identified under the National Reconstruction Fund ([www.nrf.gov.au](http://www.nrf.gov.au)). These include: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries; Resources; and, Renewables and low emission technologies. More information will become available ahead of its opening in early 2024. Contact your AusIndustry Regional Manager to find out more.

## SHIRE STAFF HELP AT TRANQUILO PARK

Shire staff recently teamed up with the Cervantes Progress and Ratepayers Association to revitalize the gazebos at Tranquilo Park.



## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grant Name	Grantor	Focus	Min / Max Grant	Closes
AgriFutures Australia – Horizon Scholarship Program	Agrifutures Australia	For students studying an agriculture-related undergraduate degree or a STEM degree with relevant majors which align to agriculture.	Bursary of \$5,000 per year for the final two years of your degree Professional development workshops  Annual industry work placements	5pm AEST on 12 Jan 24
eID Infrastructure Grants Program	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Facilitate the transition to mandatory individual electronic identification (eID) for sheep and goats in WA – Rnd 2 is for non registered-feedlots, operators such as community resource centres, downstream operators.	\$3.52 million package	Rnd 2 Opens 12 Feb 2024  Closing 30 June 2024
Farm Household Allowance Program	Services Australia	A payment for farming families in financial hardship	Case by case basis.	Ongoing.
Rebates to Improve Digital Connectivity for Farmers	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	A rebate of up to \$30,000 to cover up to 50% of the cost of eligible digital farming technology.	\$3,000 - \$30,000	31 May 2024 AEST
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
Economic Development Grant	Shire of Dandaragan	Projects creating economic benefits within the Shire of Dandaragan	\$5,000 - \$30,000 Co-contribution	OPENS March 24  CLOSES April 24