

MAY 2023

THE WANDERING ECHO



2023 Photo Comp Entry by Sharron Annesley

 Wandering
Community Resource Centre
your local connection



WELCOME

To Our Monthly Community Newsletter

NEXT EDITION IS JUNE 2023.

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION DUE BY 27TH MAY 2023

Advertise in the Echo

50 hard copies printed per month
emailed to over 170 contacts

NO JANUARY EDITION

Per month

1/4 page: \$16.00

1/2 page: \$23.00

Full page: \$52.00

11 editions - yearly

1/4 page: \$96.00

1/2 page: \$137.00

Full page: \$309.00

Contact the Wandering CRC

Phone: 08 9884 1561

Email: crc@wandering.wa.gov.au

Monday - Thursday

9am - 4pm

Closed public holidays

KEEP UP TO DATE

The best way to stay up to date with all the happenings of the CRC & Wandering Shire is to follow us on Facebook.

CRC - <https://www.facebook.com/wanderingcrc>

Shire - <https://www.facebook.com/Wanderingshire>



Wandering Phone Directory

The Wandering Phone Directory is printed as required due to it being constantly updated. Copies are free and can requested at the CRC or Shire office.

If you need to update your details, please see the team at the CRC or Shire office and we will update them for you.



Beverley Gas + Plumbing Services

**** Now Servicing The Wandering Area.****

Beverley Gas and Plumbing is now regularly servicing Wandering and surrounds.

- Renovations
- Septic + Leach drains
- Hot Water
- Blocked drains
- Gas Maintenance
- Dripping taps
- Backflow prevention
- Sewerage Conversion

For all your Plumbing and Gas needs please contact

Kodie Fleay : 0418929141

Email : beverleygandp@gmail.com

Glow In the Dark GOLF



Celebrating 2023 Youth Week

Thursday 18th May 2023

5.30pm

Sausage sizzle & drinks provided

Wandering Golf Club

RSVP's essential - 9884 1561 crc@wandering.wa.gov.au

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WANDERING

CRC PLANNING FORUM SUNDOWNER

AND REVEAL OF THE NEWLY REFURBISHED BUILDING

Your help is needed to shape the future of the Wandering CRC
and its services and activities.

TUESDAY MAY 9, 2023 | 6:00 PM

WANDERING CRC

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

PLEASE RSVP ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING

98841561

CRC@WANDERING.WA.GOV.AU





Wandering Lions Club

President: Peter Warburton 0429 366 617

Secretary: Stephen Bullock 0428 251 979

Treasurer: Sheryl Little: 0414 586 893



The bar team for the Medieval Fayre.

Medieval Fayre

April has been another busy month for the Lions.

Lions have given their support to the Medieval Fayre on the 22nd of April by running the bar and

giving a hand elsewhere where we could.

The Medieval Fayre is promoted by the Boddington Progress Association and is supported by many visiting enthusiasts who will come in costume and live out a fantasy of that period.

Many suits of armour for the men and flowing gowns for the ladies. Festive dancing and a contrasting clashing of swords entertained the crowd during the magnificent weather turned on for the day and into the night.

There was a team of 7 Lions to make sure the waring and dancing patrons were plied sufficiently with necessary beverages including the festival favourite, 'Mead'.

Congratulations to the Boddington Progress Association for another successful event.

BATTERY DRIVE

Do you have any unused and dead vehicle and machinery batteries lying around? The Wandering Lions are currently undertaking a battery drive. Send us a message via our Facebook page or get in touch with one of our awesome Members to arrange collection.



DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ The Wandering Lions have recycling stations at the Wandering Tavern and rubbish tip for the donation of cans and bottles? These funds are then redistributed to various organisations.
- ◆ That anyone can join Lions? And that Lions is a World Wide Organisation?



Big thank you for Jacquie Cornish for once again creating a number of wonderful wreaths to be laid during the service by families and organisations

ANZAC Day

A chilly morning greeted those who braved the ANZAC dawn service at the memorial area in Wandering. Approximately 70 participants attended and the atmosphere was sombre as we remembered those service men and women who served on Australia's behalf, many not to return and many damaged by the experience.

It was great to see a number who attended were from outside our district who appreciated the service and enjoyed our hospitality.

A big thank you to Lou Cowan for the ANZAC day address, very interesting and can be found printed in the ECHO.

Jacob Price's reflection added another dimension to the service and good to see young people involved.

40 marchers set out from the CWA at 5.50am, a proud tradition, and reached the service at 6 for the service to begin.

As the sun rose we adjourned for a complementary breakfast and beverage at the tavern, kindly sponsored by the tavern creating a great conclusion to the event with patrons being able to socialise in the warmth of the tavern.

ANZAC Service



ANZAC DAY ADDRESS 2023

by Lou Cowan

We stand here this morning on Noongar land. We acknowledge the traditional owners and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay respect to the Elders, past present and emerging.

On 25 April 1915, 16,000 Australian and New Zealand soldiers, together with British, French and Indian troops, landed at what is now called Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. For the vast majority of the soldiers who landed on that day, it was their first experience of combat. By that evening, 2,000 of them had been killed or wounded. This is the story of one of those men.

My grandfather William David McWilliams lived in Wellington, New Zealand, and was well known in pre-war days in Australia and New Zealand as an advance representative and pressman for various live theatre song-and-dance performances. He was no doubt a most unlikely soldier.

Nevertheless, at the outbreak of hostilities he joined the forces as a stretcher-bearer with the New Zealand Field Ambulance, was promoted to Sergeant, and saw much warfare in Egypt, Gallipoli, Belgium, and France. He was fortunate to survive all engagements including the Battle of the Somme in 1916, Messines, Gravenstafel, Passchendaele, Polderhoek Chateau, and the Second Battle of the Somme in 1918. At the Somme in 1918 Sergeant McWilliams was buried alive by a close shell explosion, but was dug out by his mates, who had seen his moving hand protruding from the dirt.

Sergeant McWilliams was an avid photographer, and during his time with the 1st and 2nd Field Ambulance took photographs of nearly every phase of the force's experiences – the departure in a troop-ship from Wellington for Egypt, the Gallipoli campaign, the return to Egypt, where the force was reorganised, his time in Flanders, and then the return home after four years of active overseas service.

Once back in New Zealand, Grandfather McWilliams worked painstakingly over a number of years to compile a comprehensive photographic collection of the events he experienced, the photographs depicting the grim horror of what was then considered to be 'modern warfare'. There were vivid images of actual trench warfare, of hand-to-hand fighting, of barrage balloons, bi-planes and a disabled Dreadnought tank, of shells bursting and of soldiers hit by machine-gun fire. There are photographs of the absolutely appalling conditions of prolonged living in the trenches.

There are poignant images taken at Gallipoli on 24 May 1915 during a few hours' ceasefire to allow dead and wounded to be removed from the battlefield. During the ceasefire 3000 Turks were buried in six hours. Equally moving are the views of the many cemeteries, with their score upon score of simple wooden crosses.

Contrast has been achieved by placing together views of battlefields in summer, when soldiers found it impossible to keep cool, with photographs of the same locality in the depth of winter, with several inches of snow on the ground. In Flanders there are fruit trees in blossom, and then mud so deep that a horse becomes bogged.

Of particular interest are photographs obtained from captured Turks and Germans, including one of Field Marshall Paul von Hindenburg, leader of the Imperial German Army, who became the future President of Germany.

Besides the photographs of actual warfare, the collection contains other interesting relics. One section is devoted to the various methods of transport of wounded soldiers. They are seen on stretchers, in ambulances, on camels, horses and donkeys, astride the backs of or supported by other soldiers, in barges and trains and finally being treated on board the hospital ships.

During the Great War 430,731 Australian and New Zealand soldiers embarked for duty overseas. Of those soldiers 78,371 did not return. Many that did return bore scars both physically and mentally for the rest of their lives.

War is a truly terrible situation, but it is through the recognition of what our ANZAC forces fought for 108 years ago that has helped provide the great country we live in today. We must always remember their sacrifice, lest we forget.

My grandfather's photographic collection, titled "WWI Photograph Album – Egypt, Gallipoli and Western Front" is now held by the New Zealand National Army Museum at Waiouru, in a sterile environment. It has been digitised, and is publicly accessible online at <https://nam.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/5825>

Sgt WD McWilliams





CUPPA 4 CANCER

WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 2023

Change of venue:

Wandering Community Centre

Down STREET

WANDERING



9:30am – 1pm

Come join us for a cuppa and a bite to eat:

Available on the day:

cakes, slices, biscuits, sandwiches, soup, produce stall and more.

All donations and purchases go to Cancer Foundation.

RAFFLE

Numerous prizes..... DRAWN AT 12.30PM ON THE DAY

If you can't make it on the day, please feel free to donate via the QR code below:



HEAVY VEHICLE PILOT REFRESHER COURSE

HAPPENING SOON IN WANDERING

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

WE NEED 8 PEOPLE REGISTERED TO RUN THIS COURSE!

If you attended a Heavy Vehicle Pilot training course in 2019 or 2020,
your license now needs to be renewed.

This course will run in a couple of weeks with a final date to be advised shortly.

To register your interest please contact the Wandering CRC -
0429961697 (Alana) or crc@wandering.wa.gov.au



**EMPLOYMENT
TRAINING
SOLUTIONS**





Wandering CWA

The Wandering CWA recently held a morning tea to thank the volunteers that assisted our branch throughout the previous year. Those able to attend enjoyed the delicious offerings along with a cuppa. Our branch is very appreciative of all who lend a hand to our small but passionate group of members!



Happy Mother's Day

The Wandering CWA would like to wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day on Sunday 14 May!

Hire the Wandering CWA Rooms

The Wandering CWA Rooms are available for hire for your next event

Half Day hire (up to 4 hour block) \$30

Half Day hire (4 hours or more) \$50

Contact Leanne (0417 097 149) for further info

Next meeting of the Wandering CWA

Wednesday 17 May 2023

10am meeting with morning tea to follow

Come along and find out what we're all about - everyone welcome!



Here's to strong women.

May we know them.

May we be them.

May we raise them.

Find us on 
Wandering CWA



Shire Services

Building and Planning

If you propose to erect, make any additions to, or demolish any building or outbuilding, construct a swimming pool or erect a patio, shed, pergola or the like then you are required to apply for town planning development and building approval. There is a wealth of information on the Shire website at www.wandering.wa.gov.au and you are always welcome to make an appointment with a member of staff to go through any queries you may have.

Firebreaks

Firebreaks must be completed by 31 October each year. Bush fire notices are posted out with rates each year and contain instructions on how to keep your property bush fire safe.

Works Requests

Works Requests can be lodged via the Shire Website, email or by calling the office to give a detailed description of the works you require to be completed.

Food Premises / Food Stalls

All food businesses, other than an exempted food business must be approved and registered by the Shire prior to operating as a food business. Inspections of food premises are undertaken regularly within the Shire. All premises are expected to be maintained in accordance with the *Food Act 2008*. Temporary food stalls are expected to operate under guidelines that ensure only activities that reflect the level of hygiene control are carried out.

Opening Hours

Shire Office

(including Australia Post agency)
9am to 4.30pm weekdays

CRC (including Department of
Transport agency)

9am to 4pm Monday to Thursday

all closed on public holidays

Transfer Station

Sundays 8am to 4pm
Mondays 8am to 3pm

Waste Collection

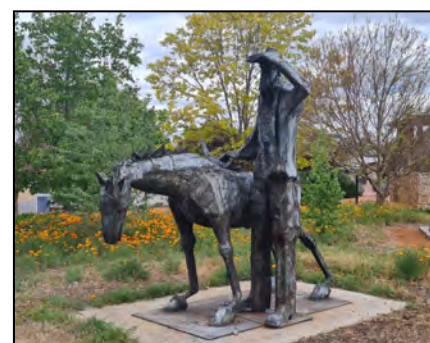
Every Tuesday

Recycling Dates:

9/05/2023
23/05/2023

Ranger

24 hours / 7 days
0459 678 154



Shire of Wandering | 22 Watts Street, Wandering WA 6308 | (08) 6828 1800

www.wandering.wa.gov.au | reception@wandering.wa.gov.au  www.facebook.com/wanderingshire

Wandering Community Resource Centre | 18 Watts Street, Wandering WA 6308 | (08) 6828 1820

crc@wandering.wa.gov.au  www.facebook.com/wanderingcrc



Council Meeting Dates 2023

- 16 February 2023
- 16 March 2023
- 20 April 2023
- 18 May 2023
- 15 June 2023
- 20 July 2023
- 17 August 2023
- 21 September 2023
- 26 October 2023
- 16 November 2023
- 14 December 2023

Meetings commence at 3.30pm, public are welcome to attend.

Shire Chambers, 22 Watts Street Wandering. Please arrive at reception by 3.15pm and submit questions at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Office Flooding

On Friday 31st March we came to work and found that the office had been flooded! A huge thanks to Brad and the guys from the crew who did an amazing job getting rid of the water and stopping more from coming in. Also thanks to the office staff who helped sweep and mop the water out and move things around to prevent more damage.



Council Meeting Notes

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 April 2023 the following items were discussed:

- Shire of Wandering Policy Manual Review
- New Shire Policies— Information Management and Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use / Information and Communications Technology Asset Disposal
- Financial Reports – March 2023
- Accounts for Payment March 2023
- 2022/2023 Budget Review



Shire of Wandering Elected Members

Elected Members Contact Details

Cr Ian Turton (President) 0428 876 033
 Cr Paul Treasure (Deputy President) 0428 506 553
 Cr Gillian Hansen 0488 911 902
 Cr Sheryl Little 0414 586 893
 Cr Graeme Parsons 0428 876 631
 Cr Max Watts 0428 841 069
<https://www.wandering.wa.gov.au/council/councillors.aspx>

Works Update

- With the early rains winter grading has started and will continue over the next few months, please contact the Shire if your road needs attention.
- Road construction on the Moramocking Black spot is near completion with only some minor drain work and signage to install.
- Roadside vegetation works will recommence in the winter months due to the potential fire risk during summer.
- Tanks behind the machinery shed have been installed. These tanks will collect rainwater which will be used in the public toilets on the main street.
- Wandering Fire Station upgrade has commenced with work rapidly progressing as per plans. This will give the Wandering Brigade an office, training room, toilets and a kitchen for our current and future volunteers. The plans can be viewed on our website.
- If you have any concerns with Roads, Parks or Shire Buildings please lodge a request by going to our website:

<https://www.wandering.wa.gov.au/forms/feedback-form/6> or contact the Shire on 6828 1800

You can also use the camera on your phone to scan the QR Code





Wandering Crafters



The Wandering Crafters Community Group have started the new year with a few bus outings.

First was a day out checking out op shops in Armadale, followed by lunch and shopping at Maddington shopping centre, finished off by a trip to Spotlight (of course). A busy day with many bargains being purchased.



We celebrated Archer's 10th birthday and also Lisa Wriedt's birthday.

Next trip was to Rockingham. Stopped at Kath Aldridge's daughter in law's for a coffee and check out her little online store. Lisa has attended our markets with her produce. We had a quick stop at Spotlight before spending the rest of the day roaming the Rockingham shopping centre.



Three members, Sharon Lemmers, Bridget Woodward and Linda Barge attended a Craft retreat at Carmel with ladies from the Boddington Arts Council. Cardmaking, scrapbooking and a bit of crochet took up the weekend.



Our last trip was going to be to the Chocolate Factory in Pinjarra but alas the factory had closed down. So we went to the Amaze Miniature Park at Barragup. Ian (Spiffy) came along with Jacob and Archer. Ian drove the bus for us. We all had a lovely day and the more you looked, the more you saw. Such a beautiful venue. Started with a lovely morning tea then the exploring began. Went into the hedge maze and didn't lose anyone. Fed the fish and marvelled at the miniature villages, golf course, fairy garden and so much



more. Press buttons and trains started up. A small stream meandered throughout with a family of ducks and an occasional boat floating by. A fantastic display of teapots at the café too. Spiffy and the boys enjoyed a couple of games of mini golf. Heard lots of laughs. Can highly recommend a visit, especially with children, but enjoyable for adults too. Everyone who was able to attend received a small bag of home-made chocolates.



A few of us were able to help with the litter pick up, organised by Alana through the CRC. Enjoyed a very tasty egg and bacon burger on our return after a productive morning.



Another fun event was the "Bubble Wrap Roll" held at the Tavern as a fundraiser for the Cuppa for Cancer on Wednesday 10th May. So many were very confused as to what the evening entailed. Charlie and Jodie were wrapped in bubble wrap and rolled up and down the carpark. People sponsored them on how many rolls they could do on the night. 105 between them. Janet's parents cooked the sausages for the sausage sizzle and all proceeds also have gone to Cuppa for Cancer. \$2,000 plus was the result of an ingenious event.



Sunday 2nd April saw our last markets to be held at the Wandering Community Centre. We had our regular, loyal stallholders and a new lady with chickens that entertained many of the children. We had our usual painted rock hunt where the children found the hidden rocks and swapped them for an Easter egg. Our mystery chocolate wheel spins were also a hit. For \$2 you had the choice of a variety of gifts to choose from. Spiffy and Jacob held a stall and sold sausage sizzle with proceeds going to Cuppa for Cancer. Thank you so much. They were very yummy. The weather was kind to us and no wind or rain. Unfortunately, the flourish of patrons was a bit low but the stall holders were pleased with their day.

We are looking forward to being back in the CRC after its recent refurbishment. Also, to see the Wandering Collective Shop's display with local artisan's produce. The Crafter's group are hosting the "Australia's Biggest Morning Tea" at the Community Centre on Wednesday 10th May. Flyer also in Echo with more details.

We meet every Thursday morning from 9am at the CRC. Don't do craft??? Doesn't matter. Come down for a coffee and a chat. ☺



Have your say on the phase out of live sheep exports by sea

The Australian Government has committed to the phase out of live sheep exports from Australia by sea. The phase out policy will not apply to other live animal export industries, such as live cattle exports or live sheep exports by air.

The government intends to implement the phase out in a way that provides certainty to those impacted, minimises disruption and maximises opportunities.

The phase out will not happen during the current term of the Australian Parliament. This will provide time for individuals and businesses to adapt and prepare for the phase out.

We want to hear what the phase out means to you

We encourage everyone impacted by, or that has an interest in the phase out of live sheep exports by sea to participate in the consultation process. Your feedback will help to inform how and when the Australian Government will implement the phase out.

An independent panel has been established to consult with stakeholders, including farmers, exporters, businesses across the supply chain, animal welfare organisations, communities, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments and trading partners.

The panel will undertake face-to-face consultation across Australia, deliver virtual forums, and seek and consider written submissions.

We are seeking input on:

- how the government should phase out live sheep exports by sea
- the timeframe to implement the phase out
- how the phase out will impact exporters, farmers and other businesses across the supply chain
- support and adjustment options for those impacted by the phase out
- opportunities, including options to expand domestic processing and increase sheep meat exports.

Consultation will not consider the merits or otherwise of the government's policy to phase out live sheep exports by sea.

The panel will present their recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry by 30 September 2023 for the government's consideration.

Have your say



For more information about the phase out of live sheep exports by sea, and opportunities to participate in the consultation, visit:

haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out

Have your say by 31 May 2023.



To ask a question, or request a meeting with the panel, please email:

livesheep.phaseout@agriculture.gov.au

WARRIOR WELLBEING ARTICLE

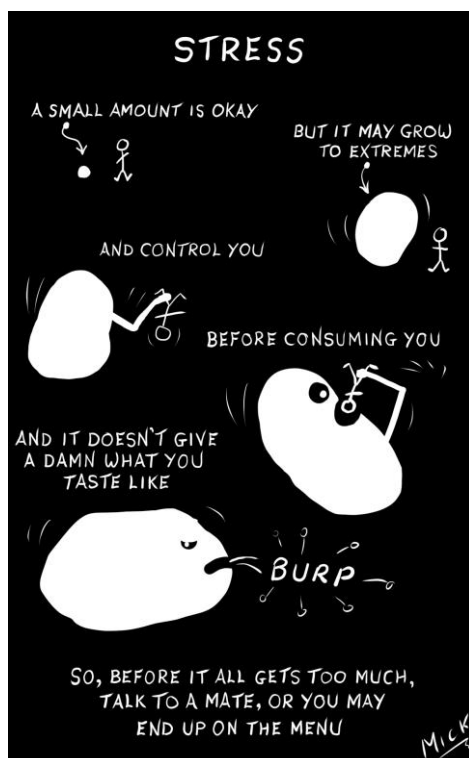
Understanding Stress

BY THE REGIONAL MEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE
May 2023

Stress is usually associated with not being in control of a situation or an environment leading us to feel uncomfortable in body and/or mind. It is a part of life and it affects everyone at one time or another. Stress is normal, a certain amount of stress energizes people consequently improving performance and efficiency.

When stress levels get too high, problems can develop and start to take their toll on our mental health, physical health and social/spiritual wellbeing, sometimes with dire consequences. At RMHI we refer to *situational distress* to explain those times in our lives that create extreme stress which can start from situations that are unresolved in our lives. If we are always saying things like *I haven't got enough time, I must get this done before..., I'll never finish in time, I can't get anything done*; we might be in danger of moving from *stressed* to being *distressed*.

It is important to remember that what might be stressful for some may not be stressful for others. We all deal with things differently and have different capacities to cope.



How do you currently cope with stress? Are your coping strategies healthy or unhealthy, helpful or unproductive? Many people cope with stress in ways that compound the problem.

Below are unhealthy strategies that may temporarily reduce stress but will cause more damage in the long run:

- Sleeping too much;
- Filling up every minute of the day to avoid facing problems;
- Withdrawing from friends, family and activities;
- Taking out your stress on others (lashing out, anger outbursts, physical violence);
- Drinking too much;
- Procrastinating;
- Overeating or undereating;
- Over analysing;
- Smoking;
- Using pills/drugs to relax;
- Zoning out for hours in front of the television or the computer.

Here are some tips that may help deal with stressful situations:

- *Avoid* the stressor. Learn to say *no*, limit time with those who stress you out (if possible), control your environment i.e. turn the news off if it makes you anxious, give the bookwork to the bookkeeper.
- *Alter* the stressor. Communicate your concerns i.e. *Talk to a Mate®*, ask for a behaviour change but be willing to also compromise, be more assertive, manage your time better.
- *Adapt* to the stressor. If you can't change the stressor, change yourself, look at the stressful situation more positively, will it matter in the long run? If the answer is *no* refocus elsewhere, set reasonable standards not perfectionism, look at all the good things in your life if feeling stressed out.
- *Accept* the stressor. Some stressors are unavoidable, in such cases accept things as they are. This can be difficult but easier than railing against an unchangeable situation.

Finding and creating ways to relax when you are stressed out will also help i.e. exercise, get a massage, listen to music to calm down and/or ... before it all gets too much ... *Talk to a Mate®!!* Most importantly if you feel you are not coping, despite your efforts to do so, we recommend a visit to your GP before you reach a crisis point.

**Remember... before it all gets too much...
Talk to a Mate®!!**

 @RMHL4blokes

 Working with Warriors Podcast

 regionalmenshealth.com.au



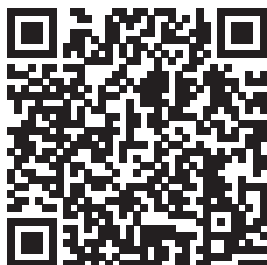
PATS process and forms have changed

(Patient Assisted Travel Scheme)

Your GP no longer needs to sign your PATS application form

What is the new process?

- 1** You complete a PATS application form and include any requests for consideration outside the current guidelines.
- 2** You submit your PATS application form in person, by post, fax or email to your local PATS office.
- 3** Your application will be assessed internally by WACHS. Your GP may be contacted for additional information, as required to support the decision.



Ready to get started?

Contact your local PATS team or scan the QR code to visit the PATS internet page.

Wheatbelt Region

1800 728 792

PATSWheatbelt@health.wa.gov.au





REGIONAL COLUMN

www.dmirs.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au

29 March 2023

With Senior Regional Officer for the South West Annetta Bellingeri

Keep kids away from tiny killers

They may well look like lollies to young eyes, but both button batteries and small high-powered magnets are capable of causing devastating internal injuries if swallowed.

The dangers have been highlighted in recent news reports on two young children who were hospitalised after ingesting these incredibly hazardous items in separate incidents.

Small high-powered magnets, which are promoted as shape-shifting toys, are so dangerous they were banned from sale in Australia over a decade ago. If two or more of the magnets are swallowed, they can attract and stick to each other across internal tissue, potentially causing the tissue to die or perforate, before leading to further complications like infection, sepsis and even death.

Likewise, button batteries – which are used to power many devices in our homes – can be deadly if they burn through the oesophagus or stomach due to a chemical reaction that is triggered when they come into contact with saliva.

To protect children from the dangers of button batteries, new rules that became mandatory last year require warnings to be displayed on all products containing them, including advice to seek medical assistance if swallowed. Any toys or other products that are powered by button batteries must have a secure battery cover.

We recently sounded a warning for retailers to ensure they are complying with the new rules or face penalties, after our product safety inspections in Albany uncovered 15 items for sale that were wrongly labelled and failed to display the correct warnings to consumers.

Given button batteries are an enforcement priority for Consumer Protection, our officers will continue checking retailers around WA to ensure the laws are being upheld.

In the meantime, we want consumers to give careful consideration to the toys and devices they buy and how they're powered. If you do decide to allow button batteries into your home, make sure they are kept away from young children and cannot be easily accessed.

If you spot non-compliant button batteries, devices containing them, or any small high-powered magnet products on shop shelves, report them to Consumer Protection at consumer@dmirs.wa.gov.au or call 1300 30 40 54.



REGIONAL COLUMN

www.dmirs.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au

5 April 2023

With Senior Regional Officer for the South West Annetta Bellingeri

Your rights on runaway rents

A lack of available rental homes in Western Australia means it's becoming harder and more expensive for many tenants to keep a roof over their heads.

With South West median rents reportedly sitting at \$530 per week, existing tenants may be asked to pay more to remain in the same property.

There are strict rules surrounding how often rent increases are allowed to happen – they can only occur after the first six months of a new tenancy agreement and on a half-yearly basis thereafter in both fixed-term and periodic leases.

Tenants in financial difficulty who miss (or expect to miss) a rental payment are urged to explain their situation to their landlord or property manager as soon as possible. A landlord might agree to a rent reduction for a period of time, waive a payment or agree to defer payment over a longer timeframe.

While market forces generally determine rental prices, if a tenant believes what they're paying is too high, they should try negotiating with the landlord before applying to the Magistrates Court requesting a reduction, or to argue against a proposed increase.

The court will consider a range of factors, including whether the rent is comparable to similar properties nearby and what the property costs the landlord in upkeep. The cost of services and contents provided will also be taken into account, along with the property's general condition and whether the rent is simply being raised to force the tenant out.

When it comes to securing a new property, some prospective tenants may offer more than the advertised price in a practice known as 'rent bidding'.

While there is no current legislation relating to rent bidding, Consumer Protection can investigate if there is evidence that a landlord or agent has advertised a rental property for a set price, but subsequently insisted that prospective tenants pay more than what was advertised to secure the home.

If you believe a landlord or agent is misrepresenting the advertising of rent prices, contact us on 1300 30 40 54 or consumer@dmirs.wa.gov.au, or find out more about rent increases on our [website](http://www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au) at www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au.



REGIONAL COLUMN

www.dmirs.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au

20 April 2023

With Acting Senior Regional Officer for South West, Cheryle Dennis

Avoid being billed for paper bills

Next time you spot a bill in the letterbox, it could be worth looking into whether you're being charged extra to receive this correspondence in the mail and how you might avoid paying the fee if so.

A growing number of service providers now charge a fee to cover the costs of printing and posting your bill. That list recently expanded to include Telstra, which reportedly cited 'environmental reasons' as the reason many of its customers would need to pay \$2.20 each time they received a bill in the mail after 20 May 2023.

Not all of Telstra's customers will need to pay the paper billing fee – those who have a valid health care, pension concession or Department of Veteran's Affairs card are exempt. The charge will also not apply to customers who don't have an email address or access to an active internet service, as well as those who require special bill formats, such as braille or large print.

There are numerous reasons why other companies may elect to not charge fees, such as those customers who receive income support or are on a hardship program.

The best way to find out if you are eligible for an exemption is to contact each of your providers to ask if you qualify for an exemption from paper bill fees, and how to apply.

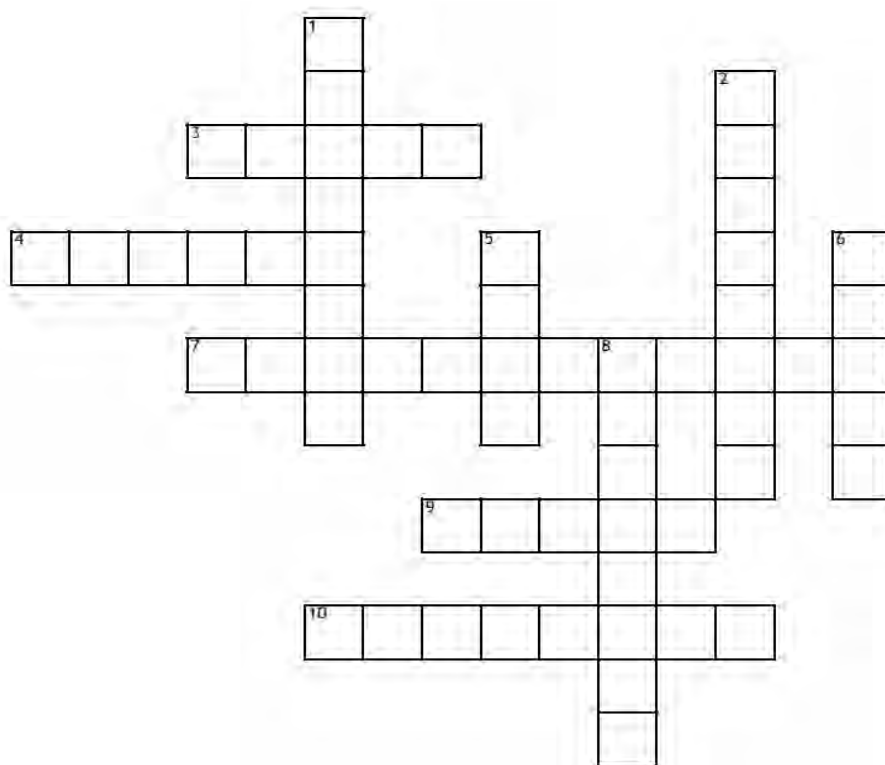
If you're not eligible, then the easiest way to avoid paying a paper billing fee is to switch to online billing and receive your bills by email or via the company's app or website.

Over the course of a year, these charges for paper billing all add up, especially for people on a low income. By opting out of paper billing or claiming the fee exemption, you could save a considerable amount each year.

Also remember to be wary about fake billing scams via phone calls or emails. Scammers sometimes try to trick consumers by sending emails that look like they are from a legitimate company. The email may ask you to send money for an overdue account.

Consumers who are eligible for an exemption but are having trouble getting their exemption request processed should contact Consumer Protection for help by emailing consumer@dmirs.wa.gov.au or by calling 1300 30 40 54. For more information about paper billing visit www.consumerlaw.gov.au/paperbilling

Bowel Cancer Symptoms



Across

3. If you ever notice this in your poo, make an appointment to see your doctor (5).
4. If you notice any unexplained loss of ____ when you step on the scales, be sure to discuss it with your doctor (6).
7. Abnormally infrequent bowel motions or pain or difficulty passing poo is called ____ (12).
9. Unexplained fatigue or feeling more ____ than usual for more than four weeks can be a sign that something isn't quite right (5).
10. A rounded enlargement of any part of the body is called a ____ (8).

Down

1. Another word for a full and tight feeling abdomen is _____. It's best to discuss this with your doctor if it's been going on for more than 4 weeks (8).
2. Speak to your doctor if you notice any trace of blood or experience _____ from your back passage (8).
5. Term used to describe extreme discomfort (4).
6. _____ poo is another way to describe diarrhoea. If there's no explanation for this and it's been going on for more than 4 weeks make an appointment and discuss it with your doctor (5).
8. An unexplained loss of _____ or feeling less hungry than usual should be discussed with your doctor to rule out anything serious (8).

Partner:



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

WANDERING CRAFT GROUP

The Wandering Crafters meet at the CRC weekly on Thursdays from 9am
New members welcome.
Come learn, come for a chat, or just come for a cuppa.

EMPOWERED NATIONS CHURCH

Room 7, Boddington CRC at the Old School, Bannister Road Boddington.
Full Gospel Church. 9.30am Prayer, Main service 10:00 AM Sundays. Includes Children's church.

- Tuesdays fortnightly: Ladies group.
- Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Bible Study, Study notes provided.
- Counselling and personal prayer available.
- Contact Julie Naylor on 0436407763 Pastor Joshua Andrews on 0425410254

If you are thirsting for more from life, come and join a lively Christian Community.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH WANDERING

Service on the fourth Sunday of the month @ 2pm
Any enquiries to
Clive Lindner on 9884 1535

WANDERING LIONS CLUB

Meet second Thursday of the month. 7pm at the Wandering Tavern

President - Peter Warburton - 0429 366 617
Secretary - Stephen Bullock - 0428 251 979

WANDERING CWA

Check this month's Wandering CWA page in this edition of the Echo for the next meeting date – we meet at the Wandering CWA Rooms on Watts Street.

President – Jacquie Cornish 0407 241 004 Secretary – Leanne Rose 0417 097 149

PUMPHREYS CWA

Meet the second Tuesday of the month at 9am at Pumphreys Bridge Hall.

President - Raelene Warburton 0428 877 038
Secretary - Shirley Wasley 0427 988 702

WANDERING VIRTUAL VILLAGE

Virtual Village activity every Monday at the Wandering CRC at 10am.
Contact Lee Muller



SMALL COMMUNITY GRANTS NOW OPEN

4 May 2023

The latest round of *Mia's Local Hero Grants*, a small grants program to help support local community groups across the Central Wheatbelt electorate is now open for applications.

Ms Davies said that in her role as the local State Member of Parliament she was pleased to support groups with the program offering small but meaningful grants to community and not-for-profit groups in the electorate.

"My latest *Mia's Local Hero Grants* program will provide amounts of up to \$200 for local groups who support and enrich the community they serve", Ms Davies said.

"This grant round is now open, and I'd encourage all eligible groups to make an application."

"The funds could be used to support or sponsor a local event, contribute toward the purchase of new equipment or materials, or to assist your group to better support your members or community."

Ms Davies said the grants provided an opportunity to show her support, thanks and appreciation for the hardworking volunteer and not-for-profit organisations that make such a difference in our community.

"The application process isn't onerous, but it is competitive so make sure you explain clearly how the money will be used and why it will benefit the community or people you support," she said.

"I'm looking forward to receiving the applications, and if anyone has concerns about their eligibility, they should contact my office."

This will be the 7th round of *Mia's Local Hero Grants*.

"I'm pleased to have delivered over \$45,000 in grant funding for 220 separate grants – going to groups in every Shire of the electorate of Central Wheatbelt," Ms Davies said.

Round 7 opens Monday 24th April 2023 and closes at 4.00pm on Friday 26th May 2023.

For application forms or further information on how to apply email: mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au or contact the electorate office directly on 9622 2871 (Northam) or 9041 1702 (Merredin).

For media enquiries please contact Mia Davies on 9041 1702 (Merredin office) 9622 2871 (Northam office) or email mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au.

Mia DAVIES MLA

Leader of The Nationals WA

CENTRAL WHEATBELT

*Matters
to me*



Northam Office

171 Fitzgerald Street
(PO Box 92)
Northam WA 6401
Ph 08 9622 2871
Fax 08 9622 1668

Merredin Office

The Old Town Hall, Mitchell St
Merredin WA 6415
Ph 08 9041 1702
Fax 08 9041 2554
Freecall 1800 673 914

mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au

www.miadavies.com.au

 MiaDaviesMLA

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THE NATIONALS *for Regional WA*

Authorised by M.Davies, Northam Boulevard Shopping Centre, Fitzgerald Street, Northam.

Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices



The Committee invites you to make a submission



Your experience matters and is important to our work



Requests for privacy and confidentiality will be respected

How to make a submission

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

SCAN ME



online submission portal



Submission closing date 16 June 2023



env@parliament.wa.gov.au



9222 7231 - all queries welcomed!

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 75
May 2023



NRM is the management of natural resources such as land, water, soils, plants and animals. It brings together land use planning, water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability of industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry.



Earth Day 2023

Christine, Kristy and Victoria from the PHCC Boddington team recently presented to members of the Boddington Youth Centre as part of the April School Holiday Program.

The session's focus was Earth Day and in celebration of this we wanted our local youth to voice their ideas on how we can change our day to day behaviours to tackle big environmental challenges.

We split into groups, each focusing on a chosen topic and our discussions resulted in practical ideas to improve the health of our planet. At the end of the session each member made their own personal pledge for Earth Day. Always remember that as an individual you have great power for change!

We would like to thank everyone who attended and the Shire of Boddington for inviting us to be part of the Youth Centre's School Holiday Program.



Boddington Youth Centre with Victoria, Christine and Kristy (PHCC)



Some of the personal pledges made

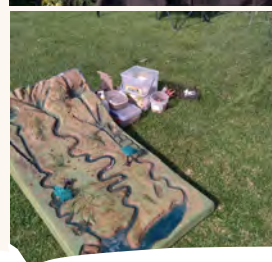
Williams Gateway Expo 2023

It was raining the night before but bright and sunny on the morning of Saturday 15 April when Christine and Kristy from the PHCC Boddington office set up a display at the Williams Gateway Expo.

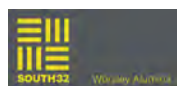
As always, the taxidermy animals were a hit, these included a woylie, rakali and red-tailed phascogale. Christine spoke to the fair-goers about our local threatened species and the outstanding Dryandra Woodland National Park.

Kristy used the opportunity to chat to the locals about the river restoration site on the Williams River running through town. This included an info-gathering exercise about what they value along the River and ways that they use and enjoy the natural area.

The event is an annual one, with breakfast, sheep judging and shearing, fashion parade, food, specialty stalls, music, a vintage car parade and fireworks in the evening. It's well worth a visit during the mellow month of April!



Australian Government



victoria.brockhurst@peel-harvey.org.au

www.peel-harvey.org.au



These projects are supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Environment Restoration Fund, Newmont Boddington, South32 Worsley Alumina and the Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering and Williams



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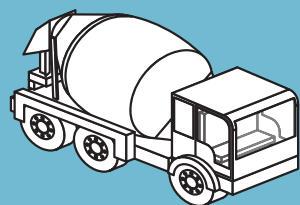
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 2023

9AM | TUESDAY 9TH
PUMPHREYS CWA MEETING

6PM | TUESDAY 9TH
CRC PLANNING FORUM SUNDOWNER

9.30AM | WEDNESDAY 10TH
CUPPA FOR CANCER

7PM | THURSDAY 11TH
LIONS MEETING

SUNDAY 14TH
MOTHER'S DAY

10AM | WEDNESDAY 17TH
WANDERING CWA MEETING

3.30PM | THURSDAY 18TH
COUNCIL MEETING

5.30PM | THURSDAY 18TH
GLOW IN THE DARK GOLF

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

AT THE CRC

MONDAY - VIRTUAL VILLAGE - 10AM - 12PM

THURSDAY - CRAFT GROUP - 10AM - 12PM