

2025 FOX HUNT





Wandering Echo March 2025

WELCOME

To Our Monthly Community Newsletter

NEXT EDITION IS APRIL 2025. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION DUE BY 27TH MARCH 2025

Advertise in the Echo

50 hard copies printed per month emailed to over 170 contacts

NO JANUARY EDITION

Per month

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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

PRE-SEEDING BREAKFAST







20TH MARCH 2025 7AM WANDERING CRC \$10

Join us for breakfast to catch up with fellow farmers before seeding.

Guest speakers:

Roger Hitchcock - **Rural Aid**Julii Gaunt -

DEMIRS WorkSafe - Agriculture

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

RSVP Essential for catering:

crc@wandering.wa.gov.au 9884 1561



MONDAY 14TH APRIL 2025

CHEMCERT AQF3
ONE DAY COURSE

8.30AM - 5PM \$420 INC. MORNING TEA, LUNCH, AFTERNOON TEA

TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT THE WANDERING CRC 08 9884 1561 CRC@WANDERING.WA.GOV.AU



WORKSHOP

HAT BURNING









Register your interest at crc@wandering.wa.gov.au or on 68281820



FOX HUNT

Despite having reports of large numbers of foxes in the shire, the 2025 Wandering Fox Hunt bought in average numbers. 135 foxes, 3 feral cats, 10 rabbits and 1 pig were disposed of during Friday night. Regardless, that's over 206 000 native animals saved from predation in the next 12 months. Well done all!

12 teams consisting of 45 shooters enjoyed a sausage sizzle on Friday night during registration at the fire shed. The Wandering Lions Club did a great job getting everyone fed and watered before a long night under the stars, racing across paddocks and hunting foxes. Some teams made it a few hours, most made it all night. Check in and breakfast was hosted by the Wandering Tavern with Charlie and Janet putting on a huge spread sponsored by Peel Harvey Catchment Council.

The winning team with 40 foxes included Jacob Schorer, Lewis Parsons, Bailey Parsons, Bailey O'Driscoll & Jaxon O'Driscoll.

2nd place team consisted of Paul Treasure, John Turton, Darren Jarvis and Rhys Pullen with 25 foxes. The wooden spoon was graciously won by Tom Watts & Luke Scanlon who we hope they will be back

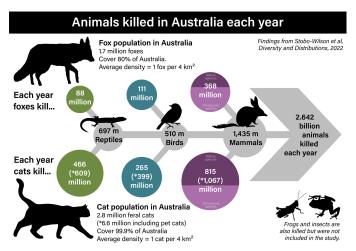
again next year.

As well as the normal 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes our amazing sponsors provided 15 assorted prizes/prize packs which were raffled off to all participating shooters and 2 great vouchers supplied by Peel Harvey

Catchment Council raffled off to the community members that were able to answer a guick survey at

the breakfast.

This year Leisa Turton, our steadfast coordinator, announced her retirement. After 13 years of coordinating the hunt Leisa is ready for greener pastures. Leisa not only spends countless, unseen hours tending to all the details, forming meaningful relationships with conservation groups and sourcing extra funding for our emergency services, she is host to at least 3 teams every year for the fox hunt. And her house is full. Although Leisa doesn't compete in the hunt, her fox hunt weekends are anything but relaxing. We wish you all the very best Leisa in your next venture. And hope you can enjoy some relxing "me" time before taking on too much more.







FAMILY HISTORY BOARDS

As part of the shire's 150 year celebrations, the Wandering CRC compiled a collection of local History Boards. These were displayed at the event and again at the Wandering Fair. This collection will be used at other community events and a small collection of them will be displayed on rotation at the CRC.

Some families missed the cut off time to have theirs included. We are now seeking all families who were unable to submit their history information to do so by the end of the year, so we can include it in the collection. This includes all families, whether you have been here only a few years or decades, we'd like to capture every family that has been part of our community.

Once the collection is complete, it will be turned into a book next year and also loaded to the shire's website.

If you require assistance to compile your information, please contact the Wandering CRC - 9884 1561 or crc@wandering.wa.gov.au

Mandering Playdroup

A PLACE OF FUN AND ENJOYMENT



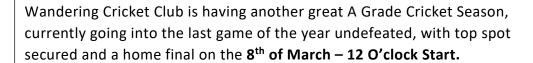
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM AT THE CWA ROOM

FOR MORE INFORMATION 0447778657





WANDERING CRICKET CLUB



We would love to see your support there to hopefully secure a home final again in Wandering for the second year in a row. It is a great family atmosphere so please come down. We will have cold drinks available for purchase.

Unfortunately, with water constraints our town oval has been looking below standard. The cricket club through its **volunteers have/are donating their time, equipment, and water** to try get our oval up to scratch for this finals campaign. We appreciate the Shire support during this time and ask that our towns facilities continue to be front of mind for all community groups.

A huge thank you to our loyal sponsors who year in year out make us a viable community organization assisting get equipment and pay bills over the years. They have also given us the ability to put the required effort and resources into the oval water mentioned above. Please use them as your first port of call for all your business and personal needs (sponsored listed to the right).

The Upper Great Southern was represented at Country week by Lewis Parsons, Ben Sherry, Jacob Schorer, Blake Warburton, Ben McMillan and was captained by Bailey Parsons.

Thanks for your support, Ben Sherry – President









Nutrien Ag Solutions | Pingelly

WANDERING LIONS



Breakfast at the Primary School

First week in February saw Lions team up with the Wandering Primary School fraternity to provide a welcome to the 2025 school year over breakfast.

Parents and Grand parents along with the community were invited to join the 34 primary students to take part in a bacon and egg breakfast supplied by the Lions club. This was the perfect opportunity to build connections that would support a positive pathway for the 2025 year.

Wandering Lions feel, along with many others, that a strong school environment led by the P and C and

teachers is imperative for our community.





Fox Shoot February 2025

Lions were there. Before the fox shoot campaign begins participants need to register for the shoot and have some fortification for the all night hunting.



'Shooters gathering to register for the Wandering Fox Hunt outside of the fire shed and to be fed by the Lions Club before the all night hunt. About 46 shooters registered for the 33rd fox hunt at Wandering and the tavern will be ready for their breakfast at 7am the following morning.

THE MORE WE GROW THE MORE WE CAN GIVE

More Lions = more service.

There are over 1100 Lions clubs in Australia with more than 21000 members.

The volunteering hours by Australian Lions is astronomical, providing critical support for ongoing community needs. Volunteers are found in most aspects of our living and Lions are among the most recognisable. This small to medium size club of Wandering, by the end of March, in this year alone will have provided well over 130 hours of support and fund raising within the Wandering locale. We expect, in 2025 to be involved in more than 18 events to either provide support and/or raise funds.

It is with great satisfaction that our club can provide local funding support along with our commitments to the wider national and international Lions needs. Lions take great pride in financially supporting local needs and national research in cancer, eye health, hearing, diabetes and other needy areas of wellbeing.

Next time you see a Lion at work consider what that means in terms of the strength of a community.



LACHLAN HUNTER

THE NATIONALS WA FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT





📞 0457 721 949 🛮 🔼 lachlan.hunter@nationalswa.com









THINK LOCAL.
VOTE NATIONAL











Concerns for water quality of local streams and rivers Locals for Environmental Action and Protection (LEAP)

Preliminary water testing at a number of watercourses downstream from gold and bauxite operations in the Northern Jarrah Forest are showing alarming amounts of contaminants, such as arsenic, mercury, sulfides, lead, PFAS (forever chemicals) and hydrocarbons.

Water samples were collected in January, and analysed by ChemCentre, before being interpreted with the assistance of an independent biochemist.

Analyte	River #1 (mg/L)	River #2 (mg/L)	River #3 (mg/L)	Guideline (mg/L)	Exceedance (%)
Sulphide	0.09	0.26	3.10	0.05	Exceeds by 5200%
Aluminium	15.00	210.00	750.00	0.2	Exceeds by 375000%
Antimony	0.001	0.001	0.004	0.003	Exceeds by 33.3%
Arsenic	0.01	0.028	0.23	0.007	Exceeds by 2285.7%
Lead	0.015	0.067	0.31	0.01	Exceeds by 3000%
Manganese	8.4	230.00	36.00	0.5	Exceeds by 4600%
Mercury	0.001	0.001	0.0013	0.001	Exceeds by 30%
Nickel	0.53	0.036	0.081	0.02	Exceeds by 2650%
Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)	0.0026	< 0.0002	< 0.0002	0.00007	Exceeds by 3614%
Total Total Recoverable Hydrocarbons	2600	43000	12000	90	Exceeds

The levels have been compared to Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. Whilst we recognize it is not necessarily drinking water, do we really want these levels in water that we may use in our day to day life - bores/groundwater for house and garden, stock-water and to swim in? For waterbirds,

turtles, wildlife? How safe do we think those water sources are? Is anyone 'official' testing these waters?

These results raise more questions than they answer. Are all industries within our Shire required to monitor their impact on the environment? Air quality, water quality? We are told by the government of the day that WA is the most environmentally regulated state. What they don't say is that these regulations are rarely enforced. Who is responsible for keeping tabs on the safety of the community? How late is too late once these metals and chemicals get into our waterways, sediments and soils? We are what we eat....

Please don't hesitate to get in contact with us if you would to join our email list, or like further information, including detailed maps and action we can take to preserve our home – our email is leap4locals@outlook.com or join us on facebook 'Locals for Environmental Action & Protection' (LEAP).



Mine rehabilitation not possible in Jarrah forest



Rehabilitation does not restore the Jarrah forest after bauxite mining. Independent studies now confirm this. It's time to end mining expansions and protect the remaining forest for life.

The Northern Jarrah Forests are some of Earth's most beautiful yet vulnerable forests. They are home to many unique plants and animals and tens of thousands of years of Noongar heritage. Since 1963 the forests have been mined for bauxite, with Alcoa and South32 already clearing over 32,000ha. In the next 15 years, massive proposed expansions will threaten critical water supplies and air quality, impact world-class trails and destroy over 10,000ha of forests – vital carbon stores and habitat for threatened wildlife.

FAILED REHABILITATION

Independent scientists have given Alcoa only 2-stars for its bauxite mine site rehabilitation in the Northern Jarrah Forest (NJF).

This is well below the 5-star rating the company and government agree is needed to restore a selfsustaining forest ecosystem. None of Alcoa's rehabilitation has been signed off by the WA Government as successfully completed in 60 years of mining.

Compared to unmined forests, 20-year-old rehabilitation has:

- fewer plant species (less species richness)
- a different species profile (altered species composition)
- fewer functional traits for ecosystem processes (less functional diversity)
- more invasive species (more weeds)
- Jarrah trees forking closer to the ground (scrubbier appearance)
- **fewer Marri trees** (important for fauna habitat and ecological resilience).

South32's rehabilitation efforts are no better.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) states the success of South32's rehabilitation is 'yet to be determined ... as evidence of rehabilitation performance have not been provided'.

No transparency from Government on water or EPA – whose running our state??

Locals for Environmental Action and Protection (LEAP)

Documents released under Freedom of Information have exposed how the Cook Government have colluded with US miner Alcoa to no longer apply the Australian drinking water guidelines to protect water sources next to its bauxite mines. This includes next to Serpentine Dam, which if contaminated, could see 100,000 people drinking contaminated water within just six hours.

According to award-winning journalist, Peter Milne, contamination from Alcoa's mining could shut down dams critical to Perth's water supply, resulting in widespread water restrictions



to protect the water supply but instead unleashed Alcoa's dangerous mining

Roger Cook granting Alcoa greater access to mine near Perth's dams risks could cost taxpayers billions of dollars and result in water restrictions





The government promised to prioritise the water supply, but instead ignored expert advice, lowered the level of protection and allowed mining in areas where it had been forbidden.

The most disturbing part of all this is that this is all happening behind closed doors, with deals being done between governments and mining companies with little to no consultation with the wider community. As a perfect example of this, the WA Environmental Protection Authority was overhauled in 2023-24 following an "independent review". The Vogel-McFerran review was submitted

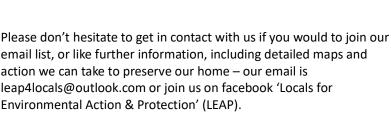
just eight days after being announced, with no consultation of conservation groups, almost no references to sources, no citations of other research and no record of which stakeholders were consulted. It has taken 13 months for it to be released under Freedom of

Information, with the Cook Labour Government actively trying to stop its release (see ccwa.org.au/vogelmcferranreview).



It might be useful to consider these issues when deciding who

to vote for in the rapidly approaching state election – a major party, whose loyalties lie with the donors, or some of the minor parties/independents who are more likely to represent you and your community.







SOLD A LIE

For decades, West Australians have been sold the lie that rehabilitation is working.

Limited metrics have been used for past assessments, for example, species richness has been measured, but not species composition or functional diversity. Early results have been assumed to be sustained over time, yet from 18 months to 25 years, Alcoa's only measure of biodiversity more than halved.

IT CANNOT BE DONE

Mining removes the very bauxitic substrate on which the Jarrah forest ecosystem has evolved. Take this away and a Jarrah forest cannot be returned.



The scientific community is clear: it is not a lack of knowledge but a lack of ecological fabric to create a Jarrah forest that is the issue.

Professor Kingsley Dixon



SOURCES

Burton, J. 2023 'Forest disappearing on its watch': WA botanist blows whistle on mining rehab 'slip'. *WAtoday*, July 3.

Campbell, T. et al. 2024. Standards-based evaluation inform ecological restoration outcomes for a major mining activity in a global biodiversity hotspot, *Restoration Ecology*, e14236.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). 2024. Worsley Mine Expansion - Revised Proposal, Report 1768.

Milne, P. 2023. Alcoa in WA: 60 years, 28,000 hectares of forest cleared, zero rehabilitation completed. *WAtoday*, March 15.

Standish, R. et al. 2021. Beyond species richness and community composition: Using plant functional diversity to measure restoration success in jarrah forest. *Applied Vegetation Science* 24: e12607.

Stantec. 2023. Alcoa Jarrah Forest Rehabilitation – Peer Review, Prepared for GHD, November 2023. (Alcoa Mining Management Program 2023-2027, Appendix 6).

Young, E. 2024. World-first test gives Alcoa two stars for Australian environmental performance. *WAtoday*, October 16.

For links to the sources view the digital copy at bit.ly/Rehab-Fail

TAKE ACTION

Please tell the Premier and Ministers Whitby, McGurk, Michael and your local MP that their constituents want:

- The EPA to provide strategic advice to the Minister for Environment on the pressures on the NJF and longterm management of the bioregion.
- South32 and Alcoa's mine expansions currently in front of the EPA must be rejected as rehabilitation of the NJF will never be successful and cannot be accepted as a mitigation measure. The exemption that allows Alcoa to keep clearing whilst the EPA assesses their Mining Management Program should also be revoked.
- A network of new protected areas to be created covering the remaining NJF.

EMAIL THE GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKERS

Let them know you want to see the NJF protected from bauxite mining and rehabilitation to not be accepted as a mitigation strategy by using our simple template. bit.ly/Rehab-Fail



End Forest Mining is an alliance of many groups, representing tens of thousands of people, and growing. We are calling on the Cook Government to end forest mining and safeguard WA's magnificent forests in secure protected areas. For further information visit **endforestmining.org.au**

























Pumphreys CWA Monthly Report

CWA held its AGM on Tuesday 11 February. We were pleased to welcome Amanda, our visitor from Vanuatu.

This year's Office Bearers are

President ... Raelene Warburton

Secretary ... Shirley Wasley

Treasurer ... Marion Morrison

Catering Committee ... Raelene Warburton 048877038

Shirley Wasley 0427988702

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 9am, at our hall at Pumphreys Bridge. If you would like to come along to a meeting, just call in and see us at our meeting.

Interesting Fact:

Our branch was formed in 1950 as Pumphreys Woodlands, at Woodlands Hall and moved to the Pumphreys Bridge site, as Pumphreys in 1952. When the present hall was established in 1958, the meetings moved from the VDC hall.



Wandering Citizen of the Year Award, 2025

It's my great privilege to be able to introduce you to our Citizen of the Year 2025.

I've come to know and love him and his family over the past 12+ years we've been a part of the Wandering Community, while some of you will have known him for many years longer than that! You'll feel exhausted just listening to the list of his achievements. Before that though, I'm going to tell you a bit of his story, with thanks to his wife and sons for their help with the personal details.

He was born in Wembley and spent the first 4 months of his life in an orphanage after being taken from his birth mother without her permission. He was then adopted out to a couple who ran a family farm 5 kilometres from Wandering. He grew up alongside a brother and sister. After spending all his primary school years at Wandering Primary, in year 8 he commenced boarding at Aquinas in Perth. He spent most of this time daydreaming and gazing out the window thinking of things he could be doing on the farm. It was no surprise that he left the minute he could and came back to work on the family farm where he toiled for next to no pay in exchange for promises to inherit the farm along with the debt.

He spent his shy early 20s getting involved in Pingelly Rural Youth where he achieved three notable things:

- 1) He met his best mate Dave and did a big lap of Australia in his pride and joy Hilux.
- 2) He took up an opportunity to go on an Exchange Program where he took 9 months off work to travel to Canada, USA the UK and Ireland.
- 3) He gave back to that organisation by volunteering in various office holder positions and fundraisers.

When he was 27, his life took an unexpected turn when he met a blonde career girl working in a high rise on the Terrace. After a 2 year courtship, the blonde girl secured employment in Narrogin and made the move to the farm, where our recipient had been batching for 2 years. They married in 2000 in front of a small gathering at the Quindanning Inne and 6 months later welcomed a baby boy, Lleyton and 18 months after that, another boy, Bobby.

A few years into the relationship, a flippant remark by the blonde girl that her husband should get some hobbies apart from farming, set in motion a chain of events no one could have predicted. Before I tell you what that chain of events triggered, I'll continue with a bit more of the story.

Nobody is immune to turbulent times, and after an over 30 year promise to inherit the family farm, that promise was heartbreakingly broken and our couple had to find another way to make a living. While his wife had always worked away from the farm, this wasn't enough, so when an opportunity to buy a Mobile Sheep Showering business came up, they didn't hesitate. They have been doing this for 10 years and now face another challenge just like many of you in this community with Labour's ban on the Live Export trade. Their Sheep showering business has already markedly declined as growers mate less ewes so there are less sheep to treat. Like many people in the sheep industry, they face an uncertain future. One thing is for sure though, although his wife did more than once regret the "getting a hobby" suggestion to her husband, there were certainly no regrets regarding their biggest achievement together in raising two sons, now in their chosen fields, Bobby a nurse in Lake Grace and Lleyton, a Research Agronomist. Both of course are also contributing members in their Community.

Now I'm going to exhaust you with a list of his community involvements and we think we've probably missed some!

He's been the president of the Wandering primary School P&C.

He was a Wandering-Boddington Clay Target Club founding Member.

He was a member of the Wandering Town Entry Statement Committee.

He's been President of the Wandering Lions Club and held various other positions too.

He was a Captain of the Wandering Town Fire Brigade and of course a volunteer Fire Brigade member

He was the Williams Football Club D Grade Team Manager.

He was a Wandering Shire Councillor from 2013 to 2021, as well as

Wandering Shire President from 2015 to 2019.

He is a Wandering Christmas Tree Volunteer and is currently researching his outfit for this year!

He's just finished his 4 year term as a WA representative on the ABC Advisory Council. (I'm sure they wondered what had struck them!).

He is a Wandering Fair and Camp Out Weekend Volunteer.

He is a passionate "Keep the Sheep" campaigner.

He is a Wandering Productivity Group Member.

He was the extremely efficient Chair of the 150th Celebrations Committee.

He is the Chair of the Community Centre Upgrade Committee and without his at times colourful contributions, we wouldn't be anywhere near as advanced with that project as we now are!

He has been a wonderful mentor to me in my journey as a Shire Councillor. I am of course very proud to announce that our 2025 Wandering Citizen of the year is Brendan Whitely.





Wandering CWA

Our next branch meeting
will also include our Annual General Meeting
which will be held on
Wednesday 19 March
from 11am at the
CWA Rooms, Watts Street in Wandering.
Everyone is welcome!

If you would like to know more about the Wandering branch of the CWA, please feel free to join us at our meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the CWA Rooms, Watts Street in Wandering from 11am.



I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.

Mother Teresa

BETTER HEALTH PROGRAM

Want to prepare your kids for a healthier future?

Is your child...

- 6-12yrs old?
- Above a healthy weight?
- In need of support to improve eating and activity habits?

The Better Health Program is a free, 10-week healthy lifestyle program for you and your child.

Weekly discussions include topics such as good nutrition, forming positive habits, becoming a healthier family and being physically active.

The program is available in **online** and **face-to-face** formats.

Both versions include a bunch of great freebies, and a reward at the end!



"The program was fantastic. So great that I didn't have to coax my daughter to come every week. She loved it and she couldn't wait to come. It's made a huge difference in our life!"

- Better Health Program Parent

Sign up today!

■ betterhealthprogram.org/wa№ 1300 822 953



For health tips follow us:



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Participants recieve great freebies and advice. Plus a reward at the end!



Available in two formats



Online – complete fun, online sessions with your child plus a weekly call with your own personal health coach.



In a group – attend 2-hour group sessions with your child, once a week in a local venue. Participate in family learning sessions, games and physical activity for your child.

Sign up today!



For health tips follow us:







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Kaylor Andrews Wheatbelt Regional Education Officer Cancer Council Western Australia Kaylor.Andrews@cancerwa.asn.au cancerwa.asn.au

'How To Tell You' it's time to quit smoking

On Sunday 16 February 2025, Cancer Council WA's Make Smoking History program launched its newest WA-made campaign, 'How To Tell You', which taps into the powerful role loved ones play in motivating people to quit smoking.

The new campaign depicts a man who has recently been diagnosed with cancer and must break the news to his partner, children, mother, and friend. Each scene captures the deeply personal and emotional weight of these conversations, highlighting the unique relationship the man shares with each loved one.



The emotive campaign focuses on the impact smoking has not just on the person who smokes, but also on their loved ones. While it's not always easy to find motivation for ourselves, thinking about how our choices affect our loved ones can make all the difference. The research behind 'How To Tell You' revealed that many people are deeply motivated to quit smoking when they think about how a smoking-related illness, like cancer, could affect their loved ones.

Quitting smoking means taking back control of your life. It's about having more money for the things you love and having the energy to dive into your favourite hobbies. Most importantly, you'll greatly improve your chances of enjoying a longer, healthier life with the people who matter most.

There are so many reasons to quit, take the first step today:

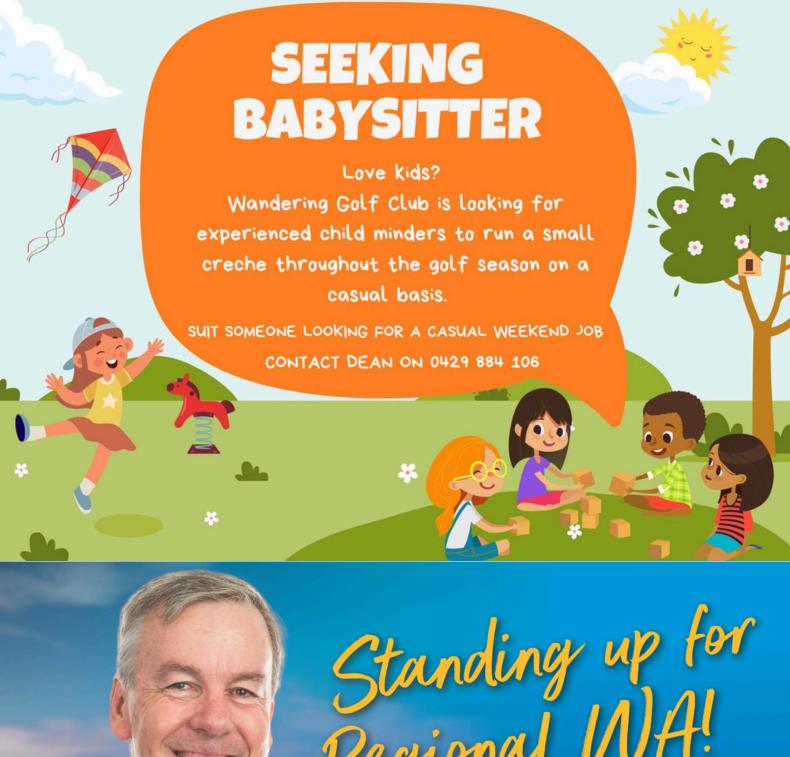
- Visit makesmokinghistory.tips for all the best tips to quit and stay quit.
- Try our free, interactive quit planner.
- Download the free My QuitBuddy app.
- Chat to your GP, Aboriginal Health Worker or pharmacist.
- Call the Quitline on 13 7848 or chat online at quitlinewa.org.au.

For more information email, <u>makesmokinghistory@cancerwa.asn.au</u>.

Share Your Story to Help Find Cancer Early

Cancer Council WA is calling on people in the Wheatbelt who have been diagnosed with cancer to share their stories as part of the Find Cancer Early program. We know that early diagnosis saves lives, and real stories from people in regional WA who have been affected by cancer can make a huge difference in encouraging others to recognise symptoms and see their doctor. We're looking for cancer patients or survivors who are over the age of 40, have been diagnosed with one of the following cancers: breast, prostate, bowel, lung, or skin, live in regional WA, and discovered their cancer after noticing symptoms and visiting their doctor. If you meet the criteria and are willing to share your story, we invite you to contact our Find Cancer Early Senior Coordinator at findcancerearly@cancerwa.asn.au or call (08) 9382 9354. For more information on the Find Cancer Early program, visit findcancerearly.com.au.





















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Mandering Mandering Mandering Mandering ME

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OPEN - MONDAY - THURSDAY

9AM - 4PM

CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS



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.



Future Ready Farming Soil Health Workshop

Join us on Wednesday 19th
March at the Quindanning
Community Hall from 8.30am for
this free event featuring Mark
Tupman from Productive Ecology,
who will be presenting on the
importance of soil health.

The workshop will provide access to valuable resources and engaging hands-on demonstrations, along with options for improving soil health, optimising production and building

climate resilience on farm.

We will conclude with a light lunch, providing an opportunity for everyone to connect. For further details and to RSVP contact Georgina Warden on 6369 8800 or georgina. warden@peel-harvey.org.au

This event is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.



Meet our new Healthy Farms Project Officer - Gen!

Gen Harvey has joined the PHCC team as our Healthy Farms Project Officer and will work on a number of projects including Healthy Estuaries WA, Bindjareb Djilba and our new Future Ready Farming and Resilient Farms, Nature and Communities Projects.

Gen has relocated to Boddington and will be working from the Boddington, Mandurah and Waroona offices. Gen started out "in the natural resource management industry working for DBCA (DEC back then) which provided a great foundation for field work and environmental experience. Since then I have been working as a project officer running environmental and agricultural projects across the great southern and wheatbelt for over 15 years".

If you'd like to know more about how PHCC can support you please get in touch with us.



Save the date

Farm Landscape Rehydration Field Day with the Mulloon Institute

When: Monday 31 March 2025

Where: Farm in the Cuballing area (Property address will be provided following registration)

More details to come – check out our social media @PHCC

Visit our events page for all upcoming events https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/

Volunteer with us

Caring for our catchment is a huge task!

If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, from planting trees, assisting at events or onitoring projects please contust us, we would love to hear from you. Visit: https://peel-harvey.org.au/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



River Bank Rehabilitation Update - Pumphreys Bridge

February's effort on the Hotham River at Koompkinning (Pumphreys Bridge) resulted in a 500m reach of the river being treated with various rehabilitation techniques.

Project partners Wilman (Dryandra)
People Corporation provided a
cultural induction before works
began, due to the site being
part of a Dreaming track, and
holding a significant place in
Noongar history and culture.
The Wilman Corporation also
provided two heritage monitors

(in case archaeological items were unearthed) and two hard workers for much needed and appreciated on-ground support.

Rehabilitation techniques on the banks included:

- Gentle re-sloping, where there were steep slopes and no existing vegetation
- Pinning jute mat (biodegradable plant material to protect the bank, suppress weeds and provide a medium

for planting later in the year)

- Placing logs and woody debris for bank stabilisation and Rakali habitat (Australian Water Rat)
- Placing in-stream structures constructed with rock and/ or logs to slow down flows, restore river function, and improve habitat conditions.











The team hard at work















Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety



REGIONAL COLUMN

www.demirs.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au

31 January 2025

With Senior Regional Officer for the South West, Annett Bellingeri Sounding the alarm on the dangers of lithium-ion batteries

Lithium-ion batteries have become the fastest growing home fire risk in Western Australia according to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

In 2024, there was a fire caused by one of these batteries almost every second day, making it the worst year on record. These 166 fires caused injuries, destroyed homes and possessions, damaged rubbish trucks and ignited large bushfires.

This figure is extremely concerning to Consumer Protection's Product Safety team, who are urging people to only buy products containing lithium-ion batteries from reputable suppliers and to be cautious when purchasing these items from overseas or on second-hand marketplaces. Consumers should look for a regulatory compliance mark, such as a tick inside a triangle, or go to eess.gov.au to check whether the charger is approved for use in Australia.

Reputable manufacturers have matched battery/charger combinations which includes a system to detect the state of charge and switch off when nearing full. Overcharged lithium-ion batteries have the potential to heat up and ignite so it's important to remove your device from the charger once fully charged.

Consumers should also avoid mixing and matching chargers, and only charge batteries on a hard surface in a cool, dry place and away from flammable materials like beds, lounges or carpet.

Worryingly, these batteries don't even need to be charging to catch fire if they are badly damaged, poorly manufactured or exposed to direct sunlight or excessive heat for long periods of time. A recent housefire in Perth's east was started by a remote-control toy car that wasn't on charge.

To check if an item in your house contains a lithium-ion battery, look for labels such as lithium ion, li-ion, li-po and lithium-polymer. E-rideables, power tools, laptops, toys, smartphones, electric vehicles and even electric toothbrushes and vapes are powered by these batteries. They are everywhere in your lives.

When it comes to e-rideables, charge them outside of the home and never leave them to charge overnight. Installing a smoke or heat alarm where these devices are charged could save your life.

Never put lithium-ion batteries in your household waste or recycling bin. Throwing batteries in the bin can cause rubbish and recycling trucks to catch fire and waste facilities to burn. This endangers the lives of workers and costs the ratepayers.

Instead take the batteries to the nearest battery drop-off point, which can be found at Recycle Right - recycleright.wa.gov.au.

If you see a battery ignite, call 000 immediately as these fires are extremely difficult to extinguish with water and battery contents may reignite or explode several days later. The toxic gases that are released from these batteries are also incredibly dangerous, so stay well away.

For more information on lithium-ion battery safety around the home visit productsafety.gov.au.



17-19TH OCTOBER LIANDER GRANDER LIANDER LIANDER Creed als Farm Was derices With

Grassdale Farm, Wandering, WA

FRIDAY ARVO SESH 12-4pm AG SHOW
CAMPING UNDER THE STARS
MOWER RACING COLOUR RUN
HELICOPTER FLIGHTS DISPLAYS
KIDS ENTERTAINMENT DEMOS
FOOD VANS WANDERING FAIR
CWA DEVONSHIRE TEA BAR

WITH SPECIAL MC PETER ROWSTHORN

EVENINGS IN THE PADDOCK

WALTER WHIP AND THE FLAMES
FRIDAY NIGHT VIP AREA
SATURDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS

FRIDAY NIGHT STAGE LINE-UP:

ANNIE JOHNSON EN QUE BROTHERS IN ARMS Dire Straits Tribute
MURPHY BROTHERS WHAT YOU NEED INXS Tribute

SATURDAY NIGHT STAGE LINE-UP:

JAMES WILSON & NATHAN GAUNT DUO | MOTEL CALIFORNIANS RENEGADE | FILTHY HABITS

TICKETS: on sale 16th March TRYBOOKING.COM/CYZMU

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

EOWCOW@OUTLOOK.COM M: 0429 961 697

FACEBOOK: WANDERINGCAMPOUTWEEKEND W: WCOW.COM.AU







Staff Changes

In January we farewelled a long standing employee of the Shire, being Adrianne. Adrianne has changed her career path and although we already miss her we wish her all the best.

This has led to an internal change, Theresa has made the big decision to take on Adrianne's finance role.

You may have seen a new face at the front counter - we have welcomed Chayne who is doing an amazing job, be sure to say hi next time you are in the office!

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 StationSundays 8am to 4pm

Mondays 8am to 4pm

Waste Collection
Every Tuesday

Recycling Dates:

11/3/2025 25/3/2025

Ranger

24 hours / 7 days 0459 678 154

Could Your Organisation Benefit From Some Financial Assistance?

Applications for the Shire's financial assistance grants program can be submitted year round, but will close on the 30th of May each year and be considered at the June Ordinary Council Meeting.

There are two categories available:

Minor Community Grants (up to \$2,000)

Major Community Grants (\$2000+)

Application forms can be found on the Shire website www.wandering.wa.gov.au

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









Council Meeting Dates 2025

- 20 February 2025
- 20 March 2025
- 17 April 2025
- 15 May 2025
- 19 June 2025
- 17 July 2025
- 21 August 2025
- 18 September 2025
- 16 October 2025
- 20 November 2025
- 11 December 2025

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.

Council Meeting Notes

At the Council Meeting held on the 20th February 2025 the following was discussed:

- Proposed Location Amenities Upgrade at the Community Centre
- Policy Manual Review
- 2025 Council Elections
- Annual Electors Meeting Draft Minutes
- Cemetery Records Digitisation
- Community Centre Gazebo
- Financial reports and payments December 24 and January 25
- Write off debtor account
- Application for planning approval—Lot 8 Ferguson Way

Agendas and Minutes can be found on the Shire website.

Have any Issues for Council ??

Please put any requests or issues in writing addressed to the Shire so they can be actioned.

If we do not know about issues affecting the community, we cannot action them.





Shire of Wandering Elected Members

Elected Members Contact Details

Cr Sheryl Little (President) 0414 586 893

Cr Alan Price (Deputy President) 0428 996 457

Cr Lou Cowan 0490 808 044

Cr Gillian Hansen 0488 911 902

Cr Dennis Jennings 0403 126 763

Cr Ian Turton 0428 876 033

Cr Max Watts 0428 841 069





Wandering Community Centre Upgrade

The upgrade to the community centre is coming along nicely.

The kitchen is now at lock up stage and skylights have been installed, gyprock sheeting has been installed on the walls, floor coverings and internal and external painting will happen next, as well as the final fitout of the plumbing and electrical. This will be followed by the installation of the stainless steel benches and appliances. At the February Council Meeting, Council accepted the recommendation of the Wandering Community Centre Upgrade Committee that the proposed ablution and storage units be located and constructed as outlined. You can view this item on our website under the agenda section.

Completion date is estimated at 30 April 2025.

Upcoming Road Construction Projects

The Shire have commenced widening the North Bannister Wandering Road from the intersection of Ricks Road South towards Wandering. This will be done in sections of around 4.5km at a time.

This financial year, we will be replacing 13 culverts.

The culvert works will continue for approximately five months. During this period, there may be temporary disruptions such as part road closures, detours, speed restrictions and increased traffic congestion.

Speed restrictions are in place. Please follow traffic management and prepare to STOP. Our crew have already experienced drivers ignoring the signs and driving through the worksite. Our workers deserve to be treated with respect and work in a safe environment

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused and kindly request your patience and cooperation during this time.









Change of Shire President and Deputy President



At the Ordinary Council meeting held on the 20th February 2025, Cr Ian Turton resigned from the role of Shire President.

Cr Turton will remain on Council until his term expires in October this year.

On behalf of the Councillors and staff at the Shire of Wandering we would like to thank Cr Turton for all his years of service, firstly from 1976 – 1988 and then returning in 2017 and becoming Shire President in 2019.



After the resignation was accepted, Council voted in a new Shire President. Congratulations to Sheryl Little, Sheryl is our new Shire President and Wandering's first ever female Shire President!



The Deputy President position was then elected and congratulations also to Cr Alan Price who has taken on the role.



LACHLAN HUNTER CENTRAL WHEATBELT



Western Australia

Ballot Paper

Election of one Member of the Legislative Assembly

CENTRAL WHEATBELT DISTRICT

You must <u>number every box.</u>

3 HOLTEN, Les

FRENCH, Lance Liberal Party

6 LEAM, Peter Stephen

▲ LINES, Peter

1 HUNTER, Lachlan
The Nationals WA

5 ATKINSON, Rebecca

REMEMBER

Number every be

STEP 2 - Legislative Council

Place a number 1 in Box D and then number the boxes as indicated below.

Remember!

3

Voting for The Nationals WA in the Legislative Council (the big ballot paper) helps us make **any** government better for regional people.

WHOLE OF STATE ELECTORATE

4

SFFPWA

С

2

Liberal Party

D

1

The Nationals WA

Ε

STEP 1

Number every

box as shown.

5

Australian Christians

Libertarian

L

One Nation

NO NEED TO NUMBER BOXES BELOW THE THICK BLUE LINE

WARRIOR WELLBEING ARTICLE

Rethinking Suicide Prevention – A Situational Approach

BY THE REGIONAL MEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE March 2025

The time has come to re-evaluate the way we approach suicide awareness and prevention! This is the challenge issued in a recent paper delivered by the Australian Institute of Male Studies and Western Health University. Renowned advocates for Men's Health, Dr. John Ashfield, Professor John MacDonald and Anthony Smith propose that a significant paradigm shift is needed to realise a more effective national suicide prevention strategy. They argue that a situational approach is required, one that acknowledges the more predominant association of situational distress with suicide, as opposed to the current focus on mental illness. This is precisely what we advocate here at RMHI.

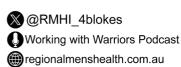
None of us are immune to the feelings associated with being overwhelmed and challenged by specific events in our lives. These normal life situations such as bereavement or relationship breakdown can impact greatly on our mental and emotional wellbeing. It is at these times, that we draw on our innate capacity/resilience as human beings, and to see the best in others when we connect with them for support. The concern is that too often the distress we feel in certain situations gets aligned with symptoms that are often used to identify a mental illness such as depression. There is no doubt that depression can be a debilitating illness with associations for increased risk of suicide, but it has gone from being a condition of relative obscurity to an apparent major social dilemma. The authors take this a step further and argue that 'the current mental health narrative has been allowed to encircle, medicalise and redefine as pathological many of our common human experiences' (Ashfield, MacDonald and Smith).

The paper's central argument is that when it comes to suicide prevention most initiatives are preoccupied with the identification of mental illness. Instead, we need to be

considering all forms of life stressors and the associated experience of distress which doesn't necessarily embody a diagnosable mental illness but can result in suicidal behaviour. They argue that many suicides are connected to situational distress often involving issues such as unemployment, financial problems and conflict, the signs of which may be missed if we adhere to a purely mental illness agenda. We need to be looking at situational distress and how it influences individual perspective.



As long as the suicide focus remains mostly on mental illness, people will continue to view this problem as that of a professional's domain. Whilst tertiary services are very important their focus is on people with high intensity mental health difficulties and the associated risks. At RMHI we strongly support the shift to a more situational approach to suicide awareness because it promotes development of initiatives that advocate capacity-building in individuals and their communities, early intervention and a primary care focus, that is; ordinary people looking out for each other.





Rural Aid Article February 2025 from Roger

With recent cyclone, floods and fires I felt it appropriate to write about what may happen to us when we experience or a subject to a natural disaster or an incident that causes high stress. trauma and a reaction in ourselves.

The first and most important factor is that as unique individuals we will react and do what we need to do in our own way and that no way is wrong. Some may move through the event with little personal stress, some may find that they just can't move and feel numb. Some may be affected immediately after the event, some may be triggered later in a few weeks, months or years. How we react can be shaped by our past experiences, the level of support we have, the connection to others and community we have established and the actual nature of the event itself.

Reactions can be similar to when we experience grief and loss. Grief and loss reactions are not only when someone close passes away. Our subsequent varying emotions that may include anger, guilt, dismay, blaming of self and others and disbelief. These reactionary emotions do not come in a set order or pattern. Greif and loss reactions also occur when we lose something such as property, stock, a relationship and or our physical health.

Common responses we may have can be, being forgetful, feel isolated, feel anxious and or depressed, Denial, Guilt (why them not me), feeling out of control, have nightmares and flashbacks, become detached. Physical symptoms may include Nausea, dizziness, have trouble sleeping, lose appetite, headaches, being easily startled or triggered and more. Long term responses maybe emotional detachment, substance abuse to better cope, problems with work, school and relationship issues, PTSD, and fears of the event recurring. Similar weather, smells, media stories and places may trigger a stronger response than usual.

The good news is that you are not going crazy. Your mind and body is doing its best to ensure you are safe, protecting you from any perceived harm. It means well.

Do your best to get back what routine you can, this maybe eating at the usual time each day, going to bed at the same time as you usually do, attending those events with friends, clubs or groups that you are a part of. Control what you are able to. I can't remember much but I can carry and make a note on a notebook or on my phone. Utilise grounding techniques such as slow breathing. If your body is saying you're tired allow yourself to rest.

But most importantly seek support and give support. Though challenging, listening to others without judgement and talking through what you are feeling is vey powerful and can also help release some frustration and strong reactionary emotions. Call me or another counsellor, who doesn't matter who, but make sure you ask for help.

Roger Hitchcock Rural Aid Roger.hitchcok@ruralaid.org.au







ABOUT STICK READER

The Wandering CRC now has the Shearwell EID Stick Reader for you to hire. It comes complete with rechargeable batteries, connection cord, car USB charging station & operating guide - everything you'll need to your animal IDs.

One person with this Stick Reader can quickly and accurately identify the electronic IDs of your livestock.

It has easy, single-button operation and a large display. And when you're done, just transfer the data wirelessly over to your office computer or even to your mobile. Access for this is also available at the Wandering CRC.

RATES INFO

\$20.00 per day per stick Loan Agreement must be completed before device is loaned out. T & C Apply

INFORMATION

The **NLIS** is a permanent, whole-of-life identification system for cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and buffalo that enables animals to be tracked from property of birth to slaughter or export. NLIS identification and tracking requirements differ according to the species. For more information email eIDTeam@dpird.wa.gov.au or call 1300 NLIS (1300 926 547)





Wandering Community Resource Centre

Preserve your legacy with our custom family history books!

Capture your story

Every family has a unique story to tell. We can help to preserve your cherished memories and heritage with beautifully printed family history books. Whether it's a collection of old photographs, handwritten letters, or captivating tales passed down through generations, we bring your family's journey to life.

Why choose us?

High-quality printing: We use premium materials to ensure your book is a lasting treasure.

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Phone: 08 9478 2611

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Chris: 0457888606

chris@wdhvac.com.au

AU: 47787 EC: 12851

FOR SALE

Animal food for small holdings with any chooks, pigs, goats, ducks and more!

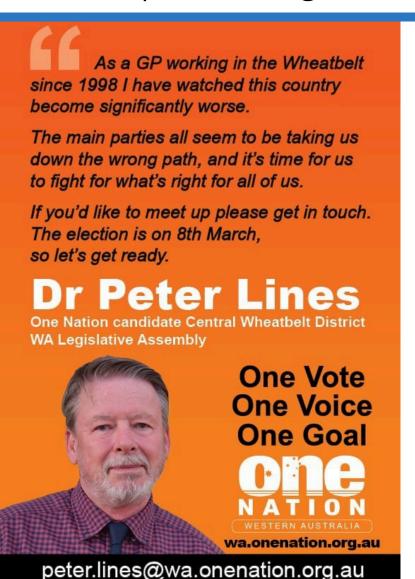
Groats 20kg bag \$20

Oat Pins, husks and grasses. Seconds Approximately 200kg \$50

Small Groats, Husks and other grasses. Seconds

Approximately 200kg \$75

Contact Lucy Jones - 0419 938 834
Pick up Wandering



Authorised by R Caddies - Pauline Hanson's One Nation WA. 28 Pinjarrah Rd, Mandurah, WA 6210

Discover St Martin's

Your Church in Wandering



Every fourth-Sunday at 2pm

and in Williams every Sunday 10:30am

Q: How can I get support?

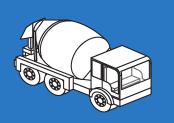
Answer: Whether you need spiritual guidance or just a listening ear, we're here. We offer prayer, home visits, and support for those going through tough times. Reach out to us through someone at church, the website (QR code below), on 9885 1174 or by email to office@gatewayparish.org



Answer: Worship is a blend of traditional Anglican and contemporary elements, aiming to make it meaningful and accessible to all. We focus on Jesus Christ. It's all on the screen, with no prayer-book page-flipping! Our services include a mix of hymns, modern songs, and a relevant, inspiring message from the Bible. We celebrate Holy Communion most Sundays. You can participate as much or little as you like! There's always time for fellowship over a cuppa afterwards, and kids have activities available.



CONCRETE MIXING & SUPPLY



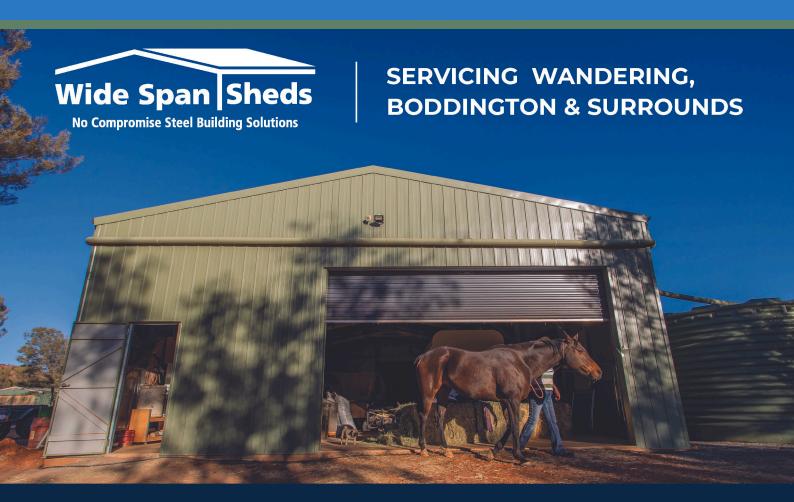
Any amount delivered Also available:



> Blue Metal

X Narrow access Bobcat also with hole augur available Grano available or DIP with our gear

Phone Andrew 0428 841 015 or 9884 1015 andrew.carstairs@bigpond.com





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.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH WANDERING

Public worship every fourth Sunday of the month, from 2pm at the church.

Enquiries to Revd Paul Bartley 0431 849 169 or Clive Lindner 9884 1535

Latest info online at www.gatewayparish.org.

New people welcome and expected! Always up for a chat.

WANDERING LIONS CLUB

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

President - Gillian Hansen - 0488 911 902 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 - Neta Parker - 0449 537 553

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 - 0429 390 626

WANDERING PLAYGROUP

Meet Thursday's during school term at 9am at the CWA Rooms. Contact Starr Corinish - 0447 778 657

WANDERING CAMP OUT WEEKEND

Wandering Camp Out Weekend Inc. Committee usually meet on the first Wednesday of each month - subject to changes - at the Wandering CRC. Committee ONLY - 6pm. Other representatives and community members welcome at 7pm. No meeting December and January

Contact:

Event Manager - Alana Rosenthal - 0429961697 President - Jane Baxter - 0428831004

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

12PM | SATURDAY 8TH
WANDERING CRICKET CLUB HOME FINAL

9AM | TUESDAY 11TH PUMPHREYS CWA MEETING

7PM | THURSDAY 13TH
WANDERING LIONS CLUB MEETING

11AM | WEDNESDAY 19TH WANDERING CWA MEETING

7AM | THURSDAY 20TH PRE-SEEDING BREAKFAST

3.30PM | THURSDAY 20TH COUNCIL MEETING

2PM | SUNDAY 23RD
ST MARTINS CHURCH GATEWAY PARISH SERVICE

6PM | FRIDAY 28TH
TENNIS & BURGERS @TENNIS CLUB

COMING IN APRIL

CHEMCERT TRAINING - MONDAY 14TH - 8.30AM KIDS EASTER EGG MAKING - MONDAY 7TH - 3.30PM