

# THE WANDERING ECHO 2025 *December*

*Wishing everyone  
a safe &  
Merry  
Christmas*



# WELCOME

*To Our Monthly Community Newsletter*

**NEXT EDITION IS DECEMBER 2025.**

**ITEMS FOR INCLUSION DUE BY 24TH FEBRUARY 2026**

## **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](mailto: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>





# REGISTER NOW



*Hat Burning  
Workshop*

**6TH DECEMBER  
2025**

**AT A LOSS FOR THE UNIQUE GIFT... TRY THE HAT BURNING  
WORKSHOP SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 11-1PM -**

**\$150 P/ PERSON**

**INCLUDES LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, A HAT & A MACRAME HAT  
CLIP**

**\*\*PAYMENT REQUIRED AT BOOKING\*\***

**REGISTER AT [CRC@WANDERING.WA.GOV.AU](mailto:CRC@WANDERING.WA.GOV.AU)/PH: 089884 1561**

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Wandering  
Community Resource Centre



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

# CHRISTMAS CRAFT FOR KIDS

THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER

KIDS JOIN US IN DECORATING YOUR  
OWN CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT  
FROM 3.00-4.30PM \$10 PER CHILD

INCLUDES SNACK & DRINK  
AT THE WANDERING CRC

RSVP TO

[CRC@WANDERING.WA.GOV.AU](mailto:CRC@WANDERING.WA.GOV.AU) OR

089884 1561



Wandering  
Community  
Resource  
Centre

*Your local connection*

Proudly Supported by



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development





2026

# International *Women's* Day

*Divine Elegance Lunch*

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Wandering Community Centre

12 noon

\$50 per person

✿ 3 COURSE LUNCH ✿

✿ CHAMPAGNE OR WINE ON ARRIVAL ✿

✿ GUEST SPEAKERS ✿ SALLY JANE MUSIC ✿

✿ CRAFT STATIONS - PAINT & SIP OR MACRAME & SIP ✿

Bookings essential - limited tickets available  
[crc@wandering.wa.gov.au](mailto:crc@wandering.wa.gov.au)

08 9884 1561

or BOOK ONLINE: [www.trybooking.com/DHYAI](http://www.trybooking.com/DHYAI)



Wandering

Community Resource Centre

*your local connection*

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

# SUNDOWNER

TO CELEBRATE

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>  
February 6pm

Wandering Community Centre

- BBQ Dinner
- Entertainment
- Volunteer Certificate Presentation

To register yourself or someone else for a volunteer certificate, please visit:  
<https://form.jotform.com/252948553791067>  
or call into the CRC for a hard copy form

**RSVP:** by 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Wandering CRC  
9884 1561

[crc@wandering.wa.gov.au](mailto:crc@wandering.wa.gov.au)

**BYO alcoholic drinks**

*Proudly supported by:*

Government of Western Australia  
Department of Communities

Wandering  
Community  
Resource  
Centre

Your local connection





# 2026 Wandering **AUSTRALIA DAY** Celebration

Community Breakfast  
7am

Monday 26th January 2026  
Wandering Community Centre

*Everyone welcome!*

Complimentary breakfast, proudly supported by  
National Australia Day Council

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.





# BEGINNER COMPUTER CLASSES

4 weekly workshops to help get you started using a computer. Learn all the basics to confidently use a computer to stay connected to family and friends, save your documents, use the internet, send and receive emails, and produce basic documents.

You will need to attend all 4 workshops to gain the best knowledge from the course.

*This will be using Windows platform.  
Not suited to Apple Mac.*

*Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 10am - 12pm  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 10am - 12pm  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 10am - 12pm  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 10am - 12pm*

*\$40 per person, includes all 4 classes.*

Places are limited!

Contact the Wandering CRC to book your place

Ph: 08 9884 1561 or email: [crc@wandering.wa.gov.au](mailto:crc@wandering.wa.gov.au)

# Wandering Christmas Service



**Sun 21 Dec 2025**

**2pm start**

**at St Martin's**

All are welcome to come and  
Celebrate the Birth of the Saviour!



**Singing, Bible readings, Prayer  
& Christmas Arvo Tea**

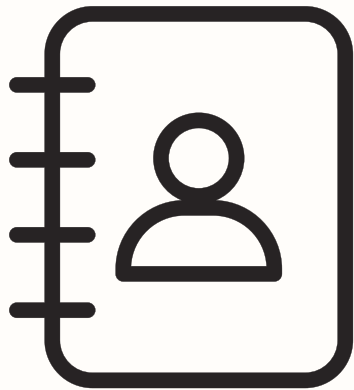


[www.gatewayparish.org](http://www.gatewayparish.org)

## WANDERING TENNIS CLUB



Wandering Social Tennis Club. Every Friday. 6pm.  
Wandering tennis courts. No experience  
necessary. Racquets available to use on the night.  
Inquiries to Mel 0417 924 836.



## UPDATE YOUR DETAILS IN THE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Are your details up to date in the Community  
Directory? If not, please contact the Wandering  
CRC, [crc@wandering.wa.gov.au](mailto:crc@wandering.wa.gov.au) or 9884 1561.

## *Save the Date*

### **Wandering Fox Hunt**



**Friday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Helping to protect our native animals since 1992**

**Inquiries to ....**


**Shaun 0429 433 452**

**Mel 0417 924 836**





Please join us for the annual  
**Wandering CWA**  
**Community Christmas Tree**  
in conjunction with the  
**Wandering Primary School**  
**Presentation Night**  
**Friday 12 December**

- \* Wandering Community Centre
- \* School Presentation Night begins at 5.15pm
- \* Dinner provided free of charge and  
to be served from 6pm following the school event
- \* Santa arrives afterwards!
- \* Raffle being held on the Night 

All festive presents, which we encourage to be to a maximum of \$20,  
are to be delivered to the Wandering CRC  
by no later than Wednesday 10 December

- \* Please ensure all gifts are clearly labelled with name and age \*

This is a Smoke and Alcohol Free Community Event





# WANDERING LIONS



Wandering Lions are about to conclude a very successful calendar year. Although Lions' management year is from July to July we regard December as the culmination of our year. Our last participation in an event this year will be when we support the CWA as they in turn support the school children's' presentation night and Christmas Tree.

Keeping the Primary School strong and relevant is a community commitment.

Lions have participated in 13 community events and 13 fundraising events for 2025 and would anticipate 2026 to follow the same trend.

Wandering Lions joined our Boddington counterparts to serve at the Rodeo bar on the first weekend of November.

This event is enormous for Boddington. 8500 online tickets were promptly sold. Boddington Lions have increased and improved the rodeo infrastructure to accommodate the large number of patrons and competitors and should be well pleased with their club for it's high achievement.

Bar staff on their toes replenishing the patrons alcohol requests. The bar becomes the social hub of the event at the completion of the rodeo's highly anticipated and rigorous events of the day. Much music, laughter and wind down.



There is a team of essential 'fillers' to support the serving bar crew as large amounts of drinks need replacing into the ice. This would be an opportunity to praise the work of the Wandering team and a thanks to the volunteers who assisted in this event. This could not have been achieved without you all.



It doesn't need  
to be physical.

# COERCIVE CONTROL IS FAMILY & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Learn More

[WA.gov.au/coercivecontrol](https://WA.gov.au/coercivecontrol)



# WHAT'S IN A FREE-TO-LOAN HOME ENERGY AUDIT KIT?

## THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA



For locating draughts around your home, gaps in insulation and for checking fridge seals

## BASIN FLOW MEASURING CUP

To measure water flow from tapware



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY THERMOMETER

For measuring the temperature of rooms, fridges and freezers



## PLUG-IN ENERGY MONITOR

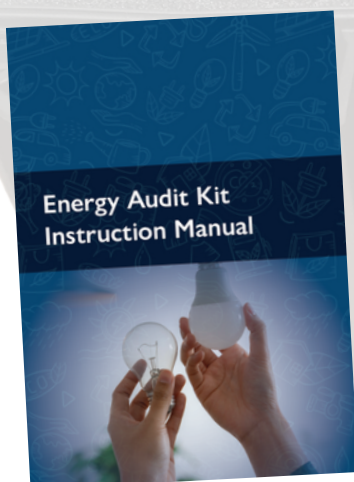
For measuring energy consumption and the running costs of appliances



## 36 PAGE INSTRUCTION MANUAL

With 5 energy audit tests and 3 water audit tests, quick tips, and information on how to develop your action plan

**PLUS  
OTHER  
USEFUL  
RESOURCES!**



Free-to-loan home energy audit kits are available from your local library. Enquire now!

For more information including energy audit kit locations and to watch an instructional video, visit

[switchyourthinking.com/energy](http://switchyourthinking.com/energy)

**Creativity?** many of us when we hear the word creative or creativity associate this with the artists, crafts or inventive people of our world. But creativity can be found in any idea or possibility, where someone sees an opportunity, fostering that idea and doing something. Creativity is defined as the tendency to generate or recognize ideas, alternatives, or possibilities that may be useful in solving problems, communicating with others, and entertaining ourselves and others.

Creative sharing of our experiences in our own unique way is very helpful to ourselves and to those in a similar situation.

To experience challenges and hard times in life is to be human, we all experience hard times, we also experience good times. Our past stories in the present give us clarity, meaning an ability to know we can get through challenges. Sharing experiences where appropriate to do so encourages others to ask for help when they are at an impasse.

The future? you never know if your yet to have the best day of your life.

In my travels I always meet people proud to tell me how they are doing their bit, using their personal skills, experiences and knowledge, to help make others aware that asking for help should be a natural reaction. These people are being creative. Telling others about a health issue and what they did rather than didn't do and are now OK. Some share how they are forever grateful describing that something that made them stop when on the brink of suicide or self-harm. Some have seen the change in another they know, stepped up and asked RUOK. Each of these people openly share their experience to make others aware, especially those in similar situations that you can get through. They make themselves vulnerable, thinking that they may be judged, only to find that the majority see only strength, really appreciating their message and encouragement.

I've seen the salt of the earth types, with the biggest hearts, nervously get up in front of people and tell how they got through a serious health scare or challenging time. How they feared being judged by others. They are passionate, using words from their heart, being who they are, sometimes not politically correct, but their message is very clear. Just do it, get that help. None are professional speakers or professional therapists; they are just legends telling their story their way to help and encourage others.

Others arrange events just because they can and invite Rural Aid or another service to do a quick wellness talk. It does not matter if 5 people turn up or 50 people turn up, the message like a stone thrown into a pond ripples out into your community. I need more than two hands to count the number of people who have reached out for assistance after hearing about Rural Aid at the event or from someone who attended the event. You are not alone so be a legend.



**Roger Hitchcock**  
**Rural Aid**  
**0460 310 661**  
**[Roger.hitchcock@ruralaid.org.au](mailto:Roger.hitchcock@ruralaid.org.au)**



# WARRIOR WELLBEING ARTICLE

## Progression Planning (Succession) Relationships First

BY THE REGIONAL MEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE  
December 2025

Progression Planning is about retaining family relationships in the progression/succession process by looking at the *people issues* before dealing with the financial and business aspects. It is often the unspoken expectations of family members that can lead to the difficulties experienced. If farming families looked at the relationship aspects and the *people issues*, of their business as part of the progression plan there would be less stress and misunderstanding.

Why Progression? Mixed messages are received and given using the word *succession*. For most it means the *king is dead* who is the next king? Progression is not just a business transaction; it is primarily about *relationships*. One of the greatest risks to a farming family's viability, in the long term, is relationship breakdown that we often don't see coming. Progression shifts the focus to how we move the family-owned business into the next era or generation and how the older generation can successfully make the transition to the next phase of their lives. *Progression* encapsulates these options.



Effective communication allows for awareness, understanding and a basis to reach agreement on issues. Communication must be maintained to both reduce distress and for our positive wellbeing. In fact, many people don't talk about progression until it's too late and/or put it off because it is too difficult.

The following key topics in progression planning need to be canvassed in detail:

- Family communication, it all starts here.
- What is the farm business? Allows understanding of the business the family are involved in.
- Stakeholders, who's involved? It is important to empower all parties to have a role in the progression planning process.
- What do stakeholders want? Questions to ask our spouse/partner and children about progression and/or retirement and business development.
- Transition period. You must establish an agreement that is suitable to your requirements. It's not going to happen overnight.

We need to make Progression Planning discussions part of normal conversation in our business. Only the minority, amongst family-owned businesses, have any documentation around farm and/or business succession. Families must lead the way and own the process, no one can do it for us. Some simple rules that influence good progression planning are:

- Sort the relationships first.
- Debate the issues openly and with those that matter.
- Start planning early, when your kids leave school, the plan should be in place and understood.
- When children come to work on the farm and/or in the business, be clear on where it is going (sell the business not the land or building).
- Seek outside help for more than financial and legal matters (involve more than just the farm consultant, accountant and/or lawyer).
- Have a handover strategy and stick to it.

Remember not all businesses will be able to have a successful progression/succession outcome, for a variety of reasons. Maintain those relationships first, to give it the best shot. A quote from Warren Buffett that fits in well with progression/succession matters... *Don't do what others say, just listen to them, and do what you feel good with.*

✉ @RMHI\_4blokes

🎧 Working with Warriors Podcast

🌐 regionalmenshealth.com.au





# WANDERING CRC STICK READER HIRE

AVAILABLE  
NOW



## ABOUT STICK READER

The Wandering CRC now has the Shearwell 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@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:eIDTeam@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 NLIS (1300 926 547)







## Shire Opening Hours for the Festive Season

The Shire and CRC will close at 12pm on Wednesday 24th of December. We will be closed on Thursday 25 December (Christmas Day), Friday 26 December (Boxing Day) and Thursday 1 January (New Years Day).

Please note the Shire office will be open for **Australia Post services only** as follows:

Monday 29 December 10am – 2pm  
 Tuesday 30 December 10am – 2pm  
 Wednesday 31 December 10am – 2pm  
 Friday 2 January 10am – 2pm

Mon 5th January 2026 back to regular hours

For any emergencies during this time, **please phone 000**  
 For fuel station issues or urgent works requests phone 0403 110 833  
 For ranger issues please phone 0459 678 154

The councillors and staff at the Shire of Wandering would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

**THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER, REOPENING ON MONDAY 5TH JANUARY**

### Letters for Santa

Don't forget to post your Santa Letters into the BIG RED POST BOX outside of the shire office by the 20th of December.

Make sure your name and address/post box number is on the front of your letter so Santa knows where to send your letter.



### 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

***both closed on public holidays***

#### Transfer Station

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

#### Waste Collection



Every Tuesday

#### Recycling Collection



Tuesdays  
 2/12/2025  
 16/12/2025  
 30/12/2025

#### 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



## Shire President's Christmas Message

### 🎄 Christmas Message to the Wandering Community 🎄

As we approach the festive season, it's a time to reflect on the year that's been—one of change, challenge, and community spirit.

This year, we were delighted to welcome Dr Alistair Pinto as our new CEO of Wandering. Alongside his wife Kally, their son Elias, and baby daughter Soraiya, born in Narrogin 6 weeks after the family arrived in town, the Pinto family has brought fresh energy and optimism to our Shire. We look forward to the journey ahead under Alistair's leadership.

We also farewelled two longstanding Councillors—Ian Turton, who has served us well as a Councillor, a former Shire President and fierce advocate for Wandering, and Max Watts, who has done much to welcome new people to the community while working tirelessly to further the interests of the town. Their years of service have helped shape Wandering into the place we know and love. We thank them sincerely for their dedication and contributions.

I want to sincerely thank our Shire staff for their dedication and hard work throughout this year of transition—their professionalism and commitment have been vital in supporting our community and Council through change. In my time as a Shire Councillor and on to becoming Shire President, I have had great guidance from a couple of wonderful mentors whose encouragement and expertise has been invaluable. One I want to publicly acknowledge is Ian Fitzgerald, who was the acting CEO throughout my early days on Council and again this year as we started the search for a new CEO. Ian guided our team to regain focus and supported us all, Councillors and staff alike, during challenging periods.

In a significant moment for local democracy, we held our first Local Government election in several years. We welcomed Cr Peter Latham and Cr Andrew Thomson to Council for four-year terms, and celebrated the re-election of Cr Gillian Hansen, whose continued service brings valuable experience and continuity.

On the land, it's been a wonderful year for our crops, bringing much-needed reward to our growers. At the same time, our sheep farmers and associated industries face an uncertain future with the planned shutdown of live sheep exports—a challenge that weighs heavily on many in our region.

This time last year, our former Shire President Ian Turton was reminding us to take care as we approached the bushfire season after another bumper crop. The following week, we lived through a fire which burnt out many thousands of hectares of land, with thankfully no loss of lives or homes. We were all very grateful to our firefighters, our community members, our neighbours and DFES for the excellent work done to protect us, feed the firefighters and clean up in the weeks that followed. We're facing the same challenges again so please be vigilant, especially with harvest now well under way. Through everything, the strength of Wandering lies in its people. Your resilience, care, and commitment to one another continue to define who we are.

May this Christmas bring peace to your homes, joy to your hearts, and hope for the year ahead. Bob and I wish you a wonderful Christmas season.

Sheryl Little, Shire President, Shire of Wandering

As we close out 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a year of transition and resilience for the Shire of Wandering. Six months ago, I stepped into my first role as a Local Government CEO and I am deeply grateful to our Councillors for placing their trust in me. Taking this step was a leap of faith and I am committed to repaying that confidence through hard work and collaboration.

I want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our Shire staff during this period of change. Leadership transitions can be challenging, yet our team has remained focused and unwavering in their commitment to delivering essential services to the community. Their ability to stay focused and deliver with excellence has been truly commendable.

A special thank you goes to Mr. Ian Fitzgerald, who served as Acting CEO during the interim period. Ian's calm demeanour and extensive local government experience provided stability and strength when it was most needed. His guidance ensured a smooth transition for the organisation and for myself as incoming CEO.

To our Councillors, thank you for your ongoing contribution to the Shire. I want to especially recognise Cr. Ian Turton and Cr. Max Watts for their years of service and welcome Cr. Gillian Hansen, Cr. Andrew Thompson and Cr. Peter Latham following their success in the recent local government elections. To those community members who nominated but were not elected—thank you for putting yourselves forward for the benefit of our community. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated. For those of you who are considering being a councillor in the future – the next local government elections will be in October 2027. Please come and have a chat with me anytime.

As we approach the holiday season, I am reminded that Christmas can be a difficult time for those who are lonely or doing it tough. It is a season for giving, reflection and inclusion. I encourage everyone to reach out, connect and share kindness where you can. I encourage you to spread joy by participating in the 2025 Christmas Lights Competition—let's make Wandering glow with festive spirit!

On a personal note, I want to thank my wife, Kally and our children for their unwavering love and support. Coming home to them gives me the strength to keep moving forward.

Looking ahead to 2026, I am excited about increasing the Shire's communication and engagement with the community, particularly in shaping our strategic plans and initiatives. Your support for services like the events at the Community Resource Centre is what brings us together and strengthens the bonds that make Wandering such a special place.

Stay safe, enjoy the festive season and have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Dr Alistair Pinto**, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Wandering



### Grants Grants Grants !

The CRC & Shire have been successfully awarded the following grants recently:

- **International Volunteer Day Grants Program 2025** – funding to support initiatives that recognise and celebrate the contributions of our volunteers. This grant is for **\$1000**.
- **Children's Week Grant** – funding to support activities and programs promoting children's engagement and well being during Children's Week. This grant is for **\$1000**
- **Age-Friendly Communities Connectivity Grants Program 2024-2025** - this grant is supported by the Department of Communities and is for an amount of **\$14,700**.
- **NADC Australia Day 2026 Community Events Grant Program**. This grant is for **\$10,000**.

These grants will provide valuable support to our ongoing community programs and initiatives. Further details regarding the use of the funding and upcoming events will be shared in due course.





## Remembrance Day 2025

On the 11th of November the Shire held a Remembrance Day ceremony. This was attended by students and staff of the Wandering Primary School, members of the community and Shire staff and councillors. Councillor Gillian Hansen delivered this year's Commemorative Address followed by the Ode of Remembrance from Mr Bob Little and the wreath laying ceremony.



Thanks to Jacquie Cornish for once again providing beautiful wreaths for this event.





## Burning Prohibited

### Burning is now prohibited from 1 November to 21 February 2026

Due to unseasonal weather conditions these dates may be extended or shortened. You must check with the Shire of Wandering 6828 1800 for details or call the Harvest Ban Line on 6828 1802.

Contact your local Bush Fire Control Officer for a permit.










**If you see a fire, do not call the Shire — please call 000 so DFES can coordinate fire crews.**



### Need to speak with Shire staff? Please book an appointment!

To help us provide the best service possible, we kindly ask that all community members book an appointment before visiting or to speak with Shire staff.


You might want to chat with us about:

-  Planning and building enquiries
-  Road maintenance or works
-  Waste and recycling services
-  Ranger services and animal control
-  Rates and payments
-  Council meetings or community projects
-  Local laws and permits
-  Parks, reserves, and public spaces
-  Event approvals or hall bookings



Booking ahead ensures we can prepare and give you the time and attention your matter deserves.

☒ To book an appointment, please contact us via:

 Phone: 6828 1800 /  Email: [reception@wandering.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@wandering.wa.gov.au)

Thank you for your cooperation and support!



## Rates Payment Reminder

If you've chosen to pay your rates in **two instalments**, please note:

### 💰 **Second Instalment Due:**

📅 On or before **2 February 2026** or **two (2) months after the first instalment, whichever is the later;**

For those choosing the **four instalments** option here are your upcoming due dates:

### ◇ **Third Instalment Due:**

📅 On or before **2 February 2026; or two (2) months after the first instalment, whichever is the later;**

### ◇ **Fourth Instalment Due:**

📅 On or before **3 April 2026; or two (2) months after the first instalment, whichever is the later;**

☑ Make sure to pay on time to avoid any penalties. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

## 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](http://www.wandering.wa.gov.au) or contact the office on 6828 1800 or [reception@wandering.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@wandering.wa.gov.au)



## Shire of Wandering 2025 Christmas Lights Competition



## 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
- 30 October 2025  
(date change)
- 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 November 2025 the following was discussed:

- Shire of Wandering 2025 Christmas Lights Competition
- Shire of Wandering Policy Manual Review – Policies 2, 3, 51 and 85
- Long Term Financial Plan 2025 - 2036
- Wandering Community Centre Upgrade Committee – Terms of Reference
- Behaviour Complaints Committee – Terms of Reference
- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – Terms of Reference
- Shire of Wandering – Grants Update
- Financial Report 30 October 2025
- Accounts for Payment 30 October 2025
- Community Centre Upgrade Committee Membership
- Wandering–Pingelly Bridge Replacement (0424A)
- Chief Executive Officer KPIs for 2025-2026
- CEO Six Month Probationary Review

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.



L to R: Cr Price, Cr Cowan, Cr Thompson  
Cr Hansen, Cr Little, Cr Latham, Cr Jennings

## 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 Peter Latham 0488 224 143  
Cr Andrew Thompson 0425 206 690

## CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

If you are stuck for a Christmas gift idea why not call into the Shire office and purchase a gift voucher from Australia Post? We stock a HUGE range of vouchers suitable for everyone.



Cash out is available at the counter (most banks) and of course stamps for your Christmas cards.







# THE SHIRE OF WANDERING 2025 Christmas Lights Competition

**Best Christmas Display – Townsite**  
\$350 gift voucher

**Runner-Up Best Christmas Display - Townsite**  
\$175 gift voucher

**Best Christmas Display – Rural**  
\$350 gift voucher

**Runner-Up Best Christmas Display – Rural**  
\$175 gift voucher

**People's Choice Award**  
\$150 gift voucher

**Registrations Open -**  
24 November - 7 December 5pm 2025  
**Judging -**  
8 - 10 December 2025

For a registration form and  
guidelines go to the Shire of  
Wandering website:  
[www.wandering.wa.gov.au](http://www.wandering.wa.gov.au)

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And our individual community member sponsors: Cr. Lou Cowan, Cr. Gillian Hansen, Cr. Sheryl Little & Bob Little



## CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

Are you passionate about delivering exceptional customer service? Do you thrive in a dynamic, friendly environment where no two days are the same? The Shire of Wandering has an exciting opportunity for a confident, self-motivated individual to join our small, dedicated team!

Due to an internal promotion, we're looking for someone who can provide outstanding service at our Shire Office and Australia Post agency, while also assisting with general administration tasks.

### What We're Offering

- Position: **Customer Service Officer** (Level 3 – Local Government Officers' (WA) Award 2021)
- Salary: **\$55,890 – \$58,406** (dependent on experience)
- Type: **Fixed-term, full-time**

### What You'll Bring

- Strong customer service and administration skills
- Excellent communication abilities
- High level of numeracy and literacy
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Ability to multi-task and stay organised

*(Local Government experience is not essential but highly regarded.)*

### Why Work With Us?

- **Minimum 12% superannuation**, with the potential to increase to 17%.
- **4 weeks' annual leave.**
- Uniform allowance.
- Ongoing **training and professional development.**
- Family-friendly policies and a safe, supportive workplace.

### Ready to Apply?

View the full position description at [www.wandering.wa.gov.au](http://www.wandering.wa.gov.au) or contact us via:

- **Email:** [reception@wandering.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@wandering.wa.gov.au)
- **Phone:** (08) 6828 1800

For a confidential discussion, contact Lisa Boddy, Executive Assistant to the CEO on (08) 6828 1800

Send your **written application**, including:

- Why you're the right person for this role
  - Your current CV
  - Contact details of two referees
- to [lisa.boddy@wandering.wa.gov.au](mailto:lisa.boddy@wandering.wa.gov.au) .

**Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so don't wait—apply now** and take the next step in your career with us. The Shire of Wandering is an equal opportunity employer. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and experiences.

Dr Alistair Pinto  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



## Wandering CWA

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of our branch this year. Whether you enjoyed a Devonshire Tea on the Fair weekend or bought something from our fabulous produce and baked goods table.... your support has indeed been much appreciated.

But more support is needed! To ensure the continuation and growth of our branch, we are always looking for new members.

If you would like to know more about the Wandering CWA, please join us at one of our meetings.



## Join us for the annual Wandering CWA **Community Christmas Tree** **Friday 12 December 2025**

in conjunction with the Wandering Primary School Presentation Night



The ladies from your local Wandering CWA branch wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. May this time bring love, laughter, friendship, and peace to you all.

### Next meeting of the Wandering CWA

#### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18 February 2026

11am meeting including morning tea

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



Strong women don't have attitudes, we have standards.

Marilyn Monroe

Find us on   
Wandering CWA



## **Wheatbelt farmer becomes face of Christmas Appeal to support country cancer patients**

Wheatbelt farmer, Gerard Hodges, is the face of Cancer Council WA's 2025 Christmas Appeal after a shock skin cancer diagnosis turned his life upside down.

The fit and healthy farmer first noticed what looked like a simple graze on his hand during the 2022 harvest season.

"Bumps and grazes aren't unusual for farmers, so I shrugged it off," Gerard said. "But it just didn't heal. One bandage turned into three."



When the Royal Flying Doctor Service came through town, Gerard had it checked. What was first thought to be a minor basal cell carcinoma turned out to be Stage 4 squamous cell carcinoma, an aggressive form of skin cancer that had already spread to his kidney and liver. Within days, Gerard was in Perth, unsure where he would stay or how long he would be away from the farm. After weeks in ICU fighting pneumonia, organ failure, and even surviving two cardiac arrests, he was told about Cancer Council WA's accommodation Lodges.

Since moving into Milroy Lodge in Shenton Park, Gerard has found more than just a place to stay, he has found peace in the gardens, comfort in the 24-hour support, and connection with others who understand what he is going through.

"I'm so proud to be the face of this year's Christmas Appeal," Gerard said.

"I encourage the WA community to get behind it and support this vital accommodation service for regional people like me."

This year alone the lodges have had almost 5,000 check-ins from country patients and carers. By donating to our Christmas Appeal, you're ensuring country cancer patients like Gerard have vital support when they need it most.

To donate to the Christmas Appeal visit [cancerwa.asn.au](https://cancerwa.asn.au).

For more information about Cancer Council WA Lodges and support services, visit

[cancerwa.asn.au/cancer-support/get-support/regional-services](https://cancerwa.asn.au/cancer-support/get-support/regional-services) or call 13 11 20 for information and support.

# Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



**PHCC**  
Working Together

Edition 104  
December 2025



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.



## Update on Resilient Farms, Nature & Communities Project

Our Resilient Farms, Nature & Communities project is delivering on ground action across our Upper Catchment across weed control, invasive animals, fencing and revegetation.

2025 saw us begin working on a significant *Juncus acutus* (Spiny Rush) infestation on the edge of Wandering, completing an initial treatment of a 4 hectare section of the creek that feeds into the Crossman River.

We have plans to continue work on this creek section over the next few years which we hope will provide an opportunity for the community to see that you can have an impact on this problem if you have a good methodology and on-going activity. Keep an eye out on the eastern side of Wandering for the on-going work at this site. We have also supported a group

within the Shire of Williams with a feral pig control program that has seen feral pigs managed across hundreds of hectares. 2025 saw 198 pigs removed from the area.

This project has also enabled 1.5km of fencing to be erected around a stunning remnant bushland patch in Bannister which were also able to further improve with infill revegetation through our Future Ready Farming Project this year.



*The Wessels Family with their project sign*



*Juncus acutus before weed control Apr 2025*



*Juncus acutus after weed control Oct 2025*

*These projects are supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and funding from the Western Australian Governments State NRM Program*

## Numbat Dig Survey

The annual Numbat Dig Survey in Dryandra Woodland National Park was held recently and Victoria and Christine from PHCC were there to lend a hand. This annual survey is organised by Dr Tony Friend (Research Associate DBCA) and Tamara Wilkes-Jones and provides great insight into the Numbat Population in Dryandra Woodland.



7 volunteers surveyed 113 sites in the 1000 hectare Dryandra Woylee Numbat Sanctuary. Numbats feed solely on termites which means that their digs and scats are quite unique and finding these foraging signs is a great way to monitor numbat presence and absence. While conducting the survey we even managed to see a numbat, carpet python, western bearded dragon and 3 echidnas.

*The Numbat Neighbourhood Project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by PHCC, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel*



**Our Staff & Board wish you a safe and happy Christmas & New Year**

**Our office will be closed from 4pm Friday, 19 December 2025 til 8.30am Monday, 5 January 2026**

Please keep an eye on our website for upcoming events

[www.peel-harvey.org.au](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au)

Follow us on Facebook to find out about our projects

[hotham.williams@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:hotham.williams@peel-harvey.org.au)



Australian Government



natural resource  
management program



These projects are also supported through funding from Newmont Boddington, and the Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering and Williams.





Are you doing it tough and needing assistance this Christmas?



## Christmas Cheer Applications

**When** – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of December

**Where** – The Salvation Army Narrogin 13 Doney Street.

**What to bring** – Photo identification preferred and another type of identification with all members of the household/family, i.e., Medicare card/pension card.

**Appointments** – Applicants may just turn up on the day listed above to fill out paperwork and have an application interview.

**Pickup** – Will be Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of December time of pick up will be allocated during the interview on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

**For more information- 08 9881 4004 to speak to Katrina Williams.**

# Water supply in a bushfire

This information could save your life



While leaving high-risk bushfires is the safest option, if you plan to stay and defend your home, you must have an **INDEPENDENT** water supply and pumping capability. This typically requires water tanks of at least 20,000 litres, pump and generator.

This is required as mains water supply and pressure cannot be guaranteed during a bushfire due to the risk of power cuts, fire damage and extreme demand.

Use the Department of Fire and Emergency Services resources to develop your personal bushfire plan: [mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au](http://mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au)  
You can also download the My Bushfire Plan app via the App Store or Google Play to access your bushfire plan anytime - even without an internet connection.

To support bushfire plans, if you have groundwater bore access to surface water, you can take and store emergency water without it counting against your annual entitlement. For more information on this, and for the location of emergency bushfire water supplies in dryland agricultural areas, visit the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation website.

## Drinking water

We recommend you keep a supply of drinking water on hand throughout summer in case your water supply is interrupted.

## Assistance for customers affected by bushfire

After a bushfire, we can assist you with issues such as damaged water meters and payment difficulties. If you have been affected by bushfire please call us on **13 13 85**.

The Emergency WA website [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au) provides emergency information and community safety warnings. Call **000** in a life-threatening emergency or the SES **132 500** for emergency assistance.





# Fire fighting and water supply

A message for fire fighters



## What to do in an emergency

Before you hook into the water supply system, **call us on 13 13 75** (24 hours).

If we know where you're headed, we may be able to help maintain supply or provide an alternative location that has better pressure.

### Reminder to the community

Please help us spread the word that you cannot rely on mains water during a bushfire due to the risk of power cuts, fire damage and extreme demand.

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#### Hydrant location

If you are unsure where the closest hydrants are located, please contact DFES or our Operations Centre on 13 13 75, who will provide you with the exact locations.

#### Broken hydrants

Any issues with hydrants should be reported to DFES to ensure repairs are made.

#### Testing

Please contact us before testing hydrants in your area as it may cause nearby properties to experience discoloured water.

Before you hook into the water supply  
call us 24 hours on **13 13 75**





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Liam Basire 0448 741 969

Liam@sww.net.au





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**KYLE GUMPRICH – 0472 639 345**

*Your local voice  
for Wandering!*




## HERE TO HELP

 [lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au)

### Northam Office

 (08) 9622 2871  
 PO Box 92  
 Northam Boulevard,  
Fitzgerald St, Northam

### Merredin Office

 (08) 9041 1702  
 PO Box 66  
 Old Town Hall,  
Mitchell St, Merredin

**LACHLAN HUNTER MP**

**MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT**



**Glen Graham 0438 278 076**

**BTM**

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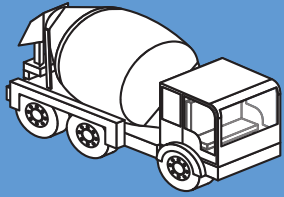
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# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## 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.

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## ST MARTIN'S CHURCH WANDERING

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

Enquiries to Revd Dale Appleby, 0405 451 228, [dale@gatewayparish.org](mailto:dale@gatewayparish.org)

Latest info online at [www.gatewayparish.org](http://www.gatewayparish.org).

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

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## WANDERING LIONS CLUB

Meet second Thursday of the month. 7pm at the Wandering Fire Shed

President - Gillian Hansen - 0488 911 902

Secretary - Lou Cowan - 0490 808 044

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## 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

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## 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

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## WANDERING VIRTUAL VILLAGE

Virtual Village activity every Monday at the Wandering CRC at 10am. Contact Lee Muller - 0429 390 626

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## 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

# 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](mailto:office@gatewayparish.org)

## Q: What's unique about Sundays at St Martin's?

**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.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# DECEMBER

**12PM | THURSDAY 4TH**  
CRC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**11AM | SATURDAY 6TH**  
HAT BURNING WORKSHOP

**2PM | MONDAY 8TH**  
ANDROID WORKSHOP

**9AM | TUESDAY 9TH**  
PUMPHREYS CWA MEETING

**3PM | THURSDAY 11TH**  
KIDS CHRISTMAS CRAFT ACTIVITY

**3.30PM | THURSDAY 11TH**  
COUNCIL MEETING

**7PM | THURSDAY 11TH**  
WANDERING LIONS MEETING

**5.15PM | FRIDAY 12TH**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION NIGHT & XMAS TREE

**2PM | SUNDAY 21ST**  
CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE



Wandering  
Community Resource Centre  
*your local connection*

