

THE WANDERING ECHO ^{\$2} 2026 August

Local Government Election Results

We are happy to announce the results of our Extra Ordinary Election which saw two of our community members put their names forward for a seat on Council.

Brendan Whitely won with 66 votes and Shenae Tilbee received 36 votes.

Congratulations Brendan on your election win and we hope to see Shenae nominate again at the next election in October 2027.



Proudly supported by:



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



WELCOME

To Our Monthly Community Newsletter

NEXT EDITION IS SEPTEMBER 2026.

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION DUE BY 24TH AUGUST 2026

Advertise in the Echo

50 hard copies printed per month
emailed to over 170 contacts

NO JANUARY EDITION

Per month

1/4 page: \$17.35

1/2 page: \$28.90

Full page: \$57.75

11 editions - yearly

1/4 page: \$103.95

1/2 page: \$150.15

Full page: \$334.95

Contact the Wandering CRC

Phone: 08 9884 1561

Email: crc@wandering.wa.gov.au

Monday - Thursday

9am - 4pm

Closed public holidays

KEEP UP TO DATE

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

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

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





Wandering
Community Resource Centre
Your local connection

Youth ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

LIFESTYLE COOKING

3 week program

Includes: healthy eating on a budget

basic cooking skills

meal planning

DATES:

THURSDAY JULY 30TH @3.30-5.00PM

THURSDAY AUGUST 6TH @3.30-5.00PM

THURSDAY AUGUST 13TH @3.30-5.00PM

Proudly supported by:



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

To register your interest, contact the Wandering CRC

9884 1561 or crc@wandering.wa.gov.au

Proudly funded by:



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

Youth ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

CONGRATULATIONS DINNER

**A dinner to congratulate those who have participated in
the YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM
inc people that have supported the participants and the
facilitators of the workshops
FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2026**



**To register your interest, contact the Wandering CRC
9884 1561 or crc@wandering.wa.gov.au**

Proudly funded by:



**Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities**

Youth ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

JOB SKILLS

3 week program Includes:

Job searching with Seek Profile creations
How to create a Resume & Interview skills
Service Certificates

Proudly supported by:



DATES:

THURSDAY JULY 9TH @3.30-5.00PM

THURSDAY JULY 23RD @3.30-5.00PM-

RESCHDULED

THURSDAY AUGUST 20TH @3.30-5.00PM

To register your interest, contact the Wandering CRC
9884 1561 or crc@wandering.wa.gov.au

Proudly funded by:



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

WANDERING

Men's

NIGHT

CAMPFIRE, BEERS & BBQ

THURSDAY
AUGUST 27TH 2026



IT'S
okay to not be
OKAY

CHAT
to your
MATE

VENUE: WANDERING CARAVAN PARK
6pm

\$30 INC DINNER & DRINKS

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL BY 20TH AUGUST 2026

PLEASE CONTACT: WANDERING CRC

9884 1561 OR

CRC@WANDERING.WA.GOV.AU

YOU ARE INVITED TO

FATHER'S DAY ACTIVITY



**MAKE DAD A ROCKY
ROAD BUCKET**



Wandering
Community Resource Centre

Proudly Supported by



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



SEPTEMBER
02
WEDNESDAY

PROGRAM RUNS
03:30-04:30PM

TICKET
10\$

Register at Wandering CRC | (08) 9884 1561
crc@wandering.wa.gov.au

Wandering Bowling Club Inc. - AGM

Wandering Bowling Club AGM will be held at the Wandering Tavern @7pm On Wednesday 2nd September, 2026 All Committee positions are vacant and need to be filled.

Season will commence last weekend of October and new bowlers are encourage to come along for a try. No experience or equipment required. Enquiries Lee Muller 0429 390 626



COMMUNITY ROADSIDE BREAKFASTS

The Wandering Community Resource Centre, Wandering Lions Club and Shire of Wandering are proud to bring you these Community Roadside Breakfasts.

We'll bring the BBQ & food. Let's gather together over breakfast, discuss community opportunities and issues and check on each other.

COMPLIMENTARY BACON & EGG ROLL COOKED FRESH!
we encourage everyone to attend the one closest to you for a fun social gathering.



EVERYONE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

TUES 8th SEPT

7AM - 8.30AM

Wandering Fuel Station

WED 9th SEPT

7AM - 8.30AM

Corner of Reid &
Moramocking Roads,
Blackboy Springs

THURS 10th SEPT

7AM - 8.30AM

Codjatotine roadside parking bay
Old School Site

Enquiries - CRC - 9884 1561 - crc@wandering.wa.gov.au



WANDERING AUTUMN GRAZE

alias

Wandering Wine Awards

A call for interest in developing an event to showcase our wonderful community and environment in an autumn setting. The Wandering Autumn Graze group is progressing the idea of an twilight and evening event that has a unique format which could include music and lighting. Previous events have been most successful bringing patrons from far and wide to Wandering to experience great food and wine that had been locally sourced in an exquisite setting. There has been a recess since 2023 and now the WAG [Wandering Wine Awards] planners are keen to progress another attraction.

The group is calling for ideas and support, and to that end are holding an **evening gathering on Tuesday 25th of August 2026 at the Community Centre at 6.30pm** in the form of a wine and cheese night.

Save this date!

Please come along with ideas and enthusiasm.

Further information will follow in early August or call Stephen Bullock 0428251979





Local Government Election Results

We are happy to announce the results of our Extra Ordinary Election
Results of Election

Local Government Act 1995, s. 4.77

Results of Election for the Shire of Wandering

Date of election: 31 July 2026

One Councillor vacancy	
Absolute Majority: 52 votes	
Candidate	First Preference votes
Shenae Tilbee	36
Brendan Whitely	66
Name of first candidate to backfill:	
Shenae Tilbee	
The following person is elected as councillor for the Shire of Wandering	
The councillor will hold office until the date set out next to the councillor's name.	
Name	Expiry of term
Mr. Brendan Whitely	October 2027

Shire Rates

Shire rates for the 2026/27 financial year have been issued. The Council approved the Annual Budget at the Ordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 16 July.

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
11/08/26
25/08/26

Ranger

24 hours / 7 days
0459 678 154

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

www.wandering.wa.gov.au | reception@wandering.wa.gov.au



www.facebook.com/wanderingshire

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

crc@wandering.wa.gov.au



www.facebook.com/wanderingcrc



Council Corner

Council Meeting Dates 2026

- 5 August 2026 (Special Council Meeting).
- 20 August 2026.
- 24 September 2026.
- 22 October 2026.
- 19 November 2026.
- 10 December 2026.

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 any questions you may have for Council at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Please refer to the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda (page 3) for information relating to public attendance at Council meetings and Public Question Time guidelines.

Council Meeting Notes

At the Council Meeting held on the 16 July 2026 the following was discussed:

- Financial Report period ending 30 June 2026.
- List of Payments for the month ending 30 June 2026.
- WALGA Central Country Zone Meeting | 12 June 2026.
- Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) Meeting | 16 June 2026.
- Retrospective Dam – Lot 88 (No. 38) Redgum Court, Wandering.
- Adoption of the 2026/27 Fees and Charges.
- 2026/27 Annual Budget.
- Policy Manual Review – Policies 12,15,24,39,89 & 90.

Agendas and Minutes can be found on the Shire website.

Elected Members Contact Details

Cr Sheryl Little (President) 0414 586 893

Sheryl.Little@wandering.wa.gov.au

Cr Alan Price (Deputy President) 0428 996 457

Alan.Price@wandering.wa.gov.au

Cr Lou Cowan 0490 808 044

Lou.Cowan@wandering.wa.gov.au

Cr Gillian Hansen 0488 911 902

Gillian.Hansen@wandering.wa.gov.au

Cr Peter Latham 0488 224 143

Peter.Latham@wandering.wa.gov.au

Cr Andrew Thompson 0425 206 690

Andrew.Thompson@wandering.wa.gov.au

No Burning Permit required

Burn with care – 20 April 2026 to 30 September 2026



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.

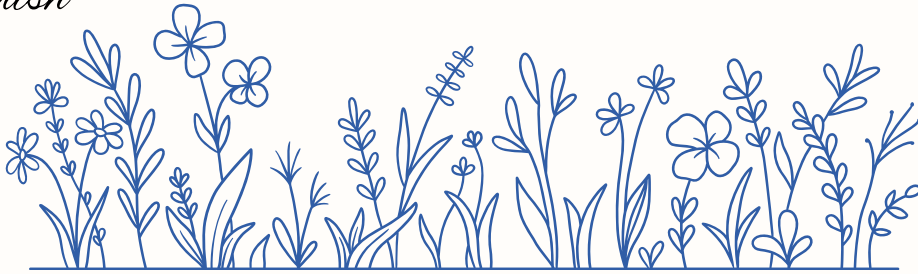


Thank You

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for the love and support shown to our family following the passing of Brian. Your cards, phone calls, flowers, messages, and kind words have meant so much during this difficult time.

A special thank you to the members of the Wandering CWA, the Wandering Golf Club, and the Shire of Wandering for your thoughtful support, kindness, and generosity. Your care and compassion have been greatly appreciated and will always be remembered.

Jacquie Cornish



*Your local voice
for Wandering!*

Here to help!

✉ lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au

Northam Office

☎ (08) 9622 2871

📮 PO Box 92, Northam WA 6401

📍 185 Fitzgerald St, Northam

Merredin Office

☎ (08) 9041 1702

📮 PO Box 66, Merredin WA 6415

📍 Old Town Hall, Mitchell St, Merredin

LACHLAN HUNTER MP

MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT



WANDERING

Camp Out Weekend

16-18 OCTOBER

**CAMPING UNDER THE STARS
TWO NIGHT STAGE LINE-UP**

FRIDAY ARVO SESH

with Jamie Hall

**16TH OCT - 12-4PM
@ THE MAIN BAA**

AG SHOW

17TH OCT 9AM-3PM

COLOUR RUN

17TH OCT 9AM

ON THE MAIN STAGE

FRIDAY - FROM 4.30PM

ROY ORBISON & FRIENDS - Tribute ● ANNIE JOHNSON & ROGUE PONY
OVER THE TOP - Angels Tribute ● FILTHY HABITS
WHAT YOU NEED - Inxs Tribute

SATURDAY - FROM 5PM

BROKEN BANJO BROTHERS ● SALLY JANE & HONKY TONK HEROES
PROUD MARY ● THE AUSTRALIAN ACDC EXPERIENCE

GRASSDALE FARM, WANDERING, WA
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

E: EOWCOW@OUTLOOK.COM

M: 0429 961 697

FACEBOOK: WANDERINGCAMPOUTWEEKEND

W: WCOW.COM.AU

Tickets
@ TRYBOOKING.COM

WANDERING

Camp Out Weekend

VOLUNTEERS
needed
FOR THE 2026 EVENT

TO REGISTER:

[HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/261671153861862](https://form.jotform.com/261671153861862)

2026

17TH OCTOBER

STALL
APPLICATIONS

FOR THE 2026 WANDERING AG SHOW

OPEN

TO REGISTER:

[HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/260338575859876](https://form.jotform.com/260338575859876)

BADMINTON

Last term saw Wandering welcome the return of badminton—a sport that had been missing from our regular calendar for many years. It's amazing how a "new" idea can bring back so many memories.

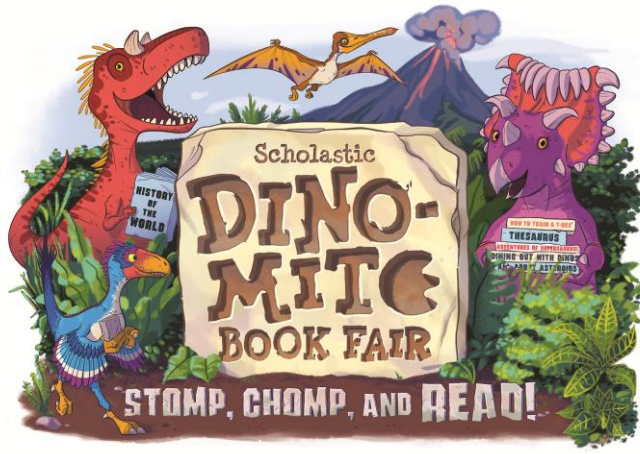
While searching for some equipment to borrow for the 2025/26 tennis wind-up, we discovered that badminton has a rich history in Wandering. More than one old shearing shed still has faded court lines etched into the concrete floors, quietly telling stories of spirited matches from years gone by. And when the call went out to borrow racquets, they appeared from the tops of cupboards and forgotten storage spaces like it had the been the most popular sport around.

The Wandering Tennis Club would like to give a huge shout-out to Ellie Toohey for generously giving up her Thursday evenings throughout Term 2 to run free badminton sessions for our youth, followed by adult sessions. Ellie was supported by the CRC, who kindly loaned the new badminton equipment they had received through a sports grant. What a fantastic collaboration for our community.

Some weeks the numbers were small, but the competition was always fierce and the fun never stopped. Mid-term was celebrated with a taco night, while our end-of-term bolognaise night proved just as popular. By the time our wind-up came around, the enthusiasm was contagious—the kids simply didn't want to leave the court, and we all played well into the night.

It was wonderful to see people of all ages come together, reconnect with an old favourite, and have the chance to try something new. Here's hoping badminton has found its place back in Wandering for years to come.





It's time to ROARRR into reading!

You are invited to
stomp and chomp your way
to this year's

BOOK FAIR!

To be held over 2 days at
Wandering Primary School

MONDAY 31 AUGUST
TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

8.30am – 3.30pm

We look forward to you joining us
as we celebrate where reading
rules the Earth and dinosaur
adventures live on!

Remember every purchase made during the Fair
earns learning & literacy resources for your local school



Department of
Education

Learning changes lives

VacSwim

Give your child the skills they need around water.

Available in your local area.

Spots are limited, enrol now to secure your place.

education.wa.edu.au/vacswim





Wandering CWA



We are hoping that everyone has been enjoying the recent rains and has been making the most of the lovely crisp mornings too. We are also hoping that you and your families are managing to stay well in amongst the current flu season and cooler weather..... however, if you have any specific needs or know of anyone that does, that the Wandering CWA are able to help with, please don't hesitate to get in contact with one of our members and have a chat.



We hope you have the date for this year's Wandering Fair (and the Wandering Camp Out Weekend too) marked on your calendar!
Saturday 17 October
Come and visit the Wandering CWA for your Devonshire Tea!



Next meeting of the Wandering CWA

Wednesday 19 August 2026
11am meeting with morning tea to follow
Everyone welcome!



A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey,
but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey
where she will become strong.

Find us on 
Wandering CWA



Outback Brides

Outback Brides will be presenting a Heritage Bridal Collection for its 2nd year on the Wandering Camp Out Weekend 16 - 18 October 2026.

We welcome and invite Wandering Brides to showcase their gowns as part of the Bridal Trail to be displayed in the Community Hall.

Ladies!, dust off your beautiful bridal gowns to be displayed on a mannequin together with your wedding photos and your story over the Camp Out Weekend.

A wedding is a **treasured** celebration of community, so it would be wonderful to have your local story and we are sure your family would enjoy the display with pride.

If you would like to be part of the collection 'Wandering Brides', please contact Sarah Kaye on 0422 847 711.



Travel Talk

With Lorraine Mitchell

Lorraine has had a colourful career as a chef
to the rich and famous on luxury yachts
throughout the world.

Come along and enjoy hearing about her adventures
and enjoy a cuppa too!

10am on Friday 18th September 2026

Shire Office Meeting Room

Watts Street, Wandering

No RSVP required – just come along!

Wandering CWA providing light refreshments
(sandwiches, cake, tea and coffee)

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



5 Rivers NRM
Working Together

Edition 108
August 2026



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.



Feral Pig Management Workshop

30 landholders and community members recently attended a Feral Pig Management Workshop held in Williams. The workshop included an indoor component with guest speakers from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Leschenault Biosecurity Group and National Feral Pig Action Plan Coordinator. Topics covered included feral pig biology and behaviour, environmental and agricultural impacts, management options, Hoggone baits case study and feral pig parasites and diseases.

Attendees then headed outside for a feral pig trap demonstration and to learn trapping tips

from experienced pest animal control contractors. Daniel from PYNC Invasive Animal Control demonstrated a figure 6 trap and panel trap and Andy from WA Feral Animal Management demonstrated the Matlock Trap. The panel trap was given away to a landholder as a first-place door prize, 2nd prize were the materials to build a panel trap and the 3rd prize winner went home with a fox traps. Thank you to everyone who attended the workshop.

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government, 5 Rivers NRM, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel, and is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program



Feral Pig Management Workshop indoor component



Feral Pig trap demonstration

Tour de' Rivers

The Rivers Mini-Festival will be a bit different this year – we'll be hitting the road in a coach bus to visit a bunch of project sites on the Hotham and Williams Rivers on 29 August. Why would you want to spend a Saturday morning looking at riverbanks? Because it's a free outing, the paddocks are green, the rivers are beautiful, and we have been working hard to help restore the project sites to a more natural state. We'll also feed you a classic CWA morning tea, which if we are honest is a solid motive in itself!

The tour will begin at Ranford Pool on the Hotham River in Boddington, where you will be Welcomed by a Darminning Elder

and shown historic works on the river and hear about future plans. From there we will be following the Hotham River upstream to Pumphreys Bridge near Wandering – Wilman Country. The Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation will welcome us to that ancient place of meeting, and we will show you the works on the banks of the river.

Morning tea will be at the Pumphreys Bridge CWA Hall (circa 1958) before we drive through the heart of the Dryandra blocks while you enjoy commentary on the Numbat Neighbourhood project. Lastly, we will visit the Williams River in Williams. All the sites we stop at

along the bus tour will showcase the weed control, natural regeneration, revegetation and bank rehabilitation works that have been carried out since 2022 and are ongoing.

There are 50 tickets available - there is no charge to book a seat through this web address <https://www.trybooking.com/DOFLV>

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government, PHCC, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel, and is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program. This project is also supported through funding from Newmont (Boddington)

Landcare matters

Revegetation to improve habitat for numbats

We have been busy planting to improve habitat linkages for numbats with 8000 seedlings going into the ground across 3 project sites in the hope that improving linkages between Dryandra Satellite blocks will allow numbats to disperse and increase their area of occupancy.

As well as revegetation other on ground works happening on farmland surrounding Dryandra include weed control, habitat augmentation through the placement of hollow logs and pest animal control with all this hard work contributing to improving habitat and reducing threats to numbats.

Thanks to all of the landholders who have been completing these activities after receiving Numbat Neighbourhood Community Onground Works Project funding.

If you are a landholder near Dryandra Woodland and would like support with pest control contact 5 Rivers NRM's Farmers for Fauna Coordinator Christine Townsend via email christine.townsend@5rivers.org.au

This Numbat Neighbourhood Project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by 5 Rivers NRM, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel



Planting day at Dryandra creek line linkage

We've changed our name!

We've changed our name to 5 Rivers NRM to remove all reference to Thomas Peel for his heavy involvement in and leadership of the Pinjarra Massacre.

Why 5 Rivers NRM? '5 Rivers' recognises the catchment of the Serpentine, Harvey, Murray, Hotham, and Williams Rivers that feed into the Peel-Harvey Estuary, longer known as the Bindjareb Djilba by the region's First Nations. NRM is Natural Resource Management.

Read our media release here: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/whats-in-a-name-peel-harvey-catchment-council-remove-peel-in-support-of-bindjareb-people/>

Coming Up

Aug 29

Hotham-Williams Bus Tour

<https://www.trybooking.com/DOFLV>

Community Onground Works Funding Opportunity

Closing Date:
4 September 2026

Funding is available for eligible landholders and community groups in the Peel-Harvey Catchment for landcare and bushcare works including:

- Fencing to protect bushland
- Fencing to protect waterways and drains*
- Weed control
- Feral animal control
- Restoration and revegetation (seedlings and seed)
- On farm native fodder/ forage plantings
- Innovative native pasture projects

**Drains are relevant to Swan Coastal Plain landholders only*

Interested?

Contact us at 5 Rivers NRM to discuss your project ideas and eligibility against funding priorities.

P: 6369 8801

E: grants@peel-harvey.org.au

Note: This is a competitive funding round. For guidelines and minimum standards see: Guidelines and Minimum Standards Terms and Conditions that are in accordance with specific funding body requirements will apply to all Agreements and are available at <https://peel-harvey.org.au/resources/procurement-contracts>

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government, 5 Rivers NRM, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel, and supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program



Australian Government

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

www.5rivers.org.au

hotham.williams@5rivers.org.au



FREE Bus Tour Hotham-Williams Rivers

As winter draws to a close, join us for a guided bus tour of the Hotham and Williams Rivers rehabilitation sites, showcasing restoration works completed since 2022.

See firsthand how these projects are improving the health and habitat of our river environment and meet Elders and Knowledge-Holders from Darminning Country and Wilman Country to hear their insights on caring for Country and the cultural significance of these connected waterways.

RANFORD

Saturday 29 August

9am to 1pm

Ranford Pool, River Road

Grab your FREE
ticket here



*Ticket also includes morning tea at Pumpbheys
Bridge CWA - secure your spot today!*



Australian Government



natural resource
management program



Newmont™



5 Rivers NRM
Working Together

This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by 5 Rivers NRM, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program. This project is also supported by Newmont (Boddington).

Fifth-Sunday Service

at St Martin's 10:30am 30 Aug



Followed by lunch at the pub

Q: What are Sundays about?

Answer: We sing songs about how great God is; we say to God 'We need your forgiveness!' Possibly the wierdest thing is called 'passing the peace' where we all shake hands and smile to celebrate the peace that Jesus has achieved for us. We read between 2 and 4 bits of the Bible and have a talk explaining what we heard. We pray to God and ask for his help in this troubled world we have. Then we have a cuppa & chat!
But visitors only participate in the things they want to.

Q: Isn't church irrelevant to modern life?

Answer: The world sure has changed. But truth vs lies... love vs hate, loyalty vs betrayal, forgiveness vs bitterness, life vs death, temporary things vs eternity, purpose vs despair, good vs evil (the list goes on): these don't really have **scientific** answers. ChatGPT won't ultimately help you with this stuff. Only God can.



Regional Column

Consumer Protection 140 William Street Perth Western Australia 6000
Email: cpmedia@lgirs.wa.gov.au | www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au | www.wa.gov.au

With Senior Regional Officer for the South West, Annetta Bellingeri **Don't lose your consumer rights in the spin cycle**

Whitegoods and televisions account for the majority of household goods complaints received by Consumer Protection. People rely on these items every day, and when something goes wrong it's a major disruption and can leave you out of pocket. Think about the food that could spoil when a fridge stops working, or the extra money needed for a laundromat when the washing machine breaks down.

The last thing you need is the retailer not understanding their obligations under the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) when your fridge, washer, dishwasher, dryer or TV breaks down.

You are entitled to a refund, repair or replacement if there is an issue with your item. The remedy you're entitled to will depend on whether the issue is major or minor.

A major fault might include a product that is unsafe, significantly different from its description, or unable to perform its intended purpose. In these cases, you can generally choose between a refund or replacement.

For minor faults, businesses may choose to repair the item within a reasonable timeframe. However, a series of minor faults may become a major fault, and you get to choose the remedy.

Despite having these basic consumer rights, reports to Consumer Protection and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) show some businesses are not honouring these rights.

For example, one person came to Consumer Protection about their washer-dryer combo that stopped working again after multiple repairs by the retailer. They were refusing to refund the consumer for this major failure. A quick reminder to their staff about their obligations under the ACL meant the customer received the full refund they were entitled to.

Many people mistakenly believe that once a manufacturer's warranty expires, they are not entitled to a remedy. This isn't true. Your consumer rights under the ACL don't end when the warranty does, in fact they continue long after. You should expect the item you bought to last for a reasonable period of time.

In another recent complaint, a consumer reported that their high-end fridge had stopped working after two years and the retailer was refusing to repair it as it was "out of warranty". Anyone would reasonably expect a fridge to last longer than two years and when the retailer was advised of this, they agreed to fix the fridge under their ACL obligations.

Also keep in mind that a retailer cannot tell you to deal directly with the manufacturer. The business that sold you the product remains responsible for providing a remedy and they cannot avoid that responsibility under the ACL.

Remember, no matter what the business says or does, they cannot take away your consumer rights. Knowing your rights can help make sure you receive the refund, repair or replacement you're entitled to and prevent businesses from avoiding their legal obligations. You can read more about your rights under the ACL on our website at consumerprotection.wa.gov.au

If you are having issues with a retailer not providing you with a remedy, let Consumer Protection know 1300 30 40 54 or lodge a complaint – consumerprotection.wa.gov.au

Regional Column

Consumer Protection 140 William Street Perth Western Australia 6000
Email: cpmedia@lgirs.wa.gov.au | www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au | www.wa.gov.au

With Senior Regional Officer for the South West, Annetta Bellingeri

Why baby bottle self-feeding devices are now banned

In case you missed it, baby bottle self-feeding devices were permanently banned by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) back in May.

Baby bottle self-feeding devices are designed to allow bubs to drink from a bottle without an adult holding it. Some use pillows or a body worn holder to prop up a bottle in the baby's mouth, while others use flexible tubes or straws that connect a teat to a bottle.

These devices have been linked to life-threatening risks of choking, suffocation or aspiration, which is when liquid enters the lungs instead of the stomach. An ACCC investigation found these were unacceptable safety risks.

As a parent or carer, you may think these self-feeding products make things easier, especially when you're busy juggling multiple tasks, but babies cannot safely manage feeding on their own. Unlike older children, babies cannot regulate the flow of milk or remove a bottle if they start to choke.

Another danger is the potential lack of active supervision. You could miss the important signs that your bub is in distress, such as gagging or discolouration of the lips, tongue or nose that may signal respiratory problems.

For parents and carers, the safe feeding advice is clear that babies should always be actively supervised, and bottles should never be propped up or left in a baby's mouth unattended.

If you own a baby bottle self-feeding device, you should stop using it immediately and dispose of it safely so it cannot be used by anyone else.

The ban also places legal obligations on businesses. It is now illegal to manufacture, advertise, sell, supply or offer to supply these products in Australia. Businesses that continue to sell banned products may face significant penalties.

Supplemental nursing systems used to support breastfeeding, or sippy cups and trainer cups designed for older infants and toddlers learning to drink independently are not affected by this ban.

Parents and carers who see baby bottle self-feeding devices being sold are encouraged to report the products to Consumer Protection's product safety team – consumer@lgirs.wa.gov.au

Regional Column

Consumer Protection 140 William Street Perth Western Australia 6000

Email: cpmedia@lgirs.wa.gov.au | www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au | www.wa.gov.au

With Senior Regional Officer for the South West, Annetta Bellingeri

Automatic tipping – is it allowed?

Have you noticed some restaurants and bars adding an automatic tip or a pre-selected gratuity appearing to your bill?

While tipping is common in some countries, Australia has traditionally operated on a wage-based system where tipping is voluntary but recently, we've been seeing in a dark pattern of automatic tipping which can sometimes also be disguised in 'hidden fees' or 'drip pricing'.

Businesses can ask for a tip, and in some circumstances, they may add a service charge, but they must be transparent about it and not mislead you as the consumer, about the true price you will pay.

Under Australian Consumer Law, businesses must clearly communicate the total price, including any unavoidable or pre-selected fees, before you commit to an order.

Automatic tipping commonly happens in hospitality when people pay in-person through eftpos, use QR code ordering or ride-sharing or food delivery apps.

Sometimes an online ordering platform can offer a pre-selected tip, provided you can clearly see and adjust or remove it before completing the transaction, but when you're dining in, this may not always be clear.

That's why it's important to always ask for an itemised bill so you can check the total amount and see if a compulsory tip or "gratuity" has been included.

Many people may not be aware that if a tip/gratuity/or service fee has been automatically added to your bill without the venue disclosing it to you upfront, the fee can be removed on request.

Another way a business can add on costs is when extra charges are hidden or only revealed at the final stage of a transaction. This is known as "drip pricing", where consumers are attracted by one price only to discover additional mandatory charges later in the purchase process.

Businesses must be upfront and clearly disclose to consumers at the start of a purchasing process the types of fees that will apply and when.

A "tip" or "gratuity" is different from a surcharge which is commonly added during public holidays or weekends and is allowed - provided they are properly disclosed. Consumers must be able to see this information before ordering, for example a note on the menu.

The bottom line for service charges or automatic gratuities is transparency.

When dining-out or ordering food through a QR code or online platform, take your time to review the itemised bill or checkout screen and remember:

- Any mandatory service charges must be clearly communicated well in advance
- Optional service charges must never be automatically added to a bill

If you're unsure, ask staff to explain any additional charges you do not understand.

For further information or advice, contact Consumer Protection on 1300 30 40 54 or email consumer@lgirs.wa.gov.au

This year the morning tea was held on Thursday 7th May at the Community Centre. Thanks to the Wandering Shire for allowing the use of the hall on the day. Very much appreciated. Also thanks to some of the Lions members for helping set up the hall this year. Sean Martin was able to stay all day and gave us a much needed hand. Also to the girls at the CRC for allowing us to put a basket there for donations for the hamper raffle.



The numbers were down from our usual attendance this year but the enthusiasm was as strong as ever. A huge thank you to my trusty volunteers and sandwich makers and community members who cooked for the day and helped by selling raffle tickets and manning the produce stall. And to Jonelle for her beautiful flower arrangements once again.



We had guest speaker Kaylor Andrews from the Cancer Council in Northam. She gave a very interesting talk and mingled with our patrons. Very interesting lady. She thoroughly enjoyed her visit.



Our highlight as usual is our fantastic school children who sang a couple of songs for us all before enjoying some of the treats on the tables for lunch. They did really well and were a joy to have them with us.

Past resident, Terena Dalton was able to have a stay over with Carol White and joined us for a great catch up. She sadly lost her oldest daughter, Karen earlier this year to the dreaded cancer. So many people are impacted by this devastating disease and every cent we can earn to go towards researching cures is a bonus.



Wandering CWA and community members have made several quilts to donate to Comfort Quilts Against Cancer and we have had many locals receive a beautiful quilt, beanie and scarf to help them through their treatment.

We did try to cut down on raffle prizes this year but they kept coming so everyone had a great chance of winning something. \$1,000 was raised from the raffle alone. We also had a bit of fun and if you found a picture of a teapot under your chair, you won a little posy of flowers.



This year with Wandering's generosity we were able to raise **\$3,359.00**.

WARRIOR WELLBEING ARTICLE

Bowel Health – It's Worth Giving a Shit!

BY THE REGIONAL MEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE
August 2026

The bowel is an important part of our digestive system, but what is it, and what should we be aware of when weighing up our overall bowel health?

The bowel is made up of 3 parts:

1. The *small intestine* is around 6 meters in length and is the narrower (small) section of the bowel. It absorbs the nutrients in the food we digest.
2. The *colon* and rectum make up the larger intestine, it is much shorter but thicker. Its role is to reabsorb fluid and process the waste material.
3. Finally, the *rectum* is where the waste material is stored until we go and *drop a log* so to speak.

What comes out and the frequency of our bowel movement is something else we should take note of. Our poo or stool should be soft, sausage shaped and should not require too much effort to pass. The frequency can depend on individual habits, changes to our diet, but the main thing to remember here is a sudden change in your poo routine could indicate other issues.



What's *not* normal?

Signs of Blood: Bright or fresh signs of blood on the toilet paper could be the result of haemorrhoids (usually a result of constipation or straining too hard) or wiping too hard and frequently can cause small cuts/tears on the anus. Blood in the poo (especially darker blood) could mean bleeding further up the bowel and should be discussed with a doctor immediately.

Constipation: Dry or hard poo sometimes associated with cramping or bloating in our lower abdomen (something we have all probably experienced) can often be resolved with some lifestyle changes i.e. drinking plenty of water, eating a diet high in soluble fibre (fruit/vegies/oat bran/lentils/beans) and an increase in physical activity.

Diarrhoea: We have all probably had a mean curry that has caused us to frequent the loo, but diarrhoea is usually caused by our intestine becoming inflamed and irritated affecting the reabsorption of water from the waste material. This can be caused by numerous factors such as: illness/infection, food poisoning, drinking contaminated water, ulcers, stress and certain food intolerances.

Leakage: Accidental leakage or incontinence can be associated with severe diarrhoea but can also be caused by weakness or damage to the muscles around our bowel and anus. The Continence Foundation of Australia is a great resource to get assistance, advice and support if you are affected by incontinence.

If any of these issues are having an effect for more than 2-3 days, a visit to the doctor is recommended. A prominent cancer is bowel cancer and can remain undetected until well advanced. Participate in the free bowel cancer screening test from the age 45 onwards – it saves lives!

Remember good bowel health and our digestive system is often compared to being just as important as brain function, just at the other end of the body. Remember it is worth giving a shit about!

✕ @RMHI_4blokes

📢 Working with Warriors Podcast

🌐 regionalmenshealth.com.au





In your life: What has been the most beautiful place you have seen so far? What is the achievement that makes you the proudest so far? What is your most defining moment in life so far?

Some people will be able to answer these questions fairly quickly. Some will not. Because of our uniqueness each answer will be different even if similar. But in each question asked, there is the same two last words, “so far”.

How do you know that the most beautiful place you will ever see and what the best thing you will do is yet to be realised? At this point you have what is the best at this moment in time, you cannot say that there won't be something better unless you can read your own future. Even later in life the same stands. During hard challenging times the same stands. Maybe the best is still yet to come. An unknown person quoted, 'Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.'

Every person has challenging times, times when we wonder if we will get through. Life is not easy and life in the future holds no promises. But the fact that we may also be yet to experience the best moment in our life is a great philosophy to help us get through hard times. We can ground ourselves and live in the moment, But it's also important to have aspirations for our future even though not guaranteed. Reminding ourselves that life has also included some good times, beautiful places and happiness assists us to stop pause reflect. Hard times are nature's way of pushing our reset button, to reset our priorities, move to get back to who we really are and to what is important to us personally. We can't undo our past but we can learn from our past. Our past also lets us know that we have got through hard times before and will get through again. But this time we have knowledge gained from previous experience of what we need to do to get through. We know what works for us. If how we reacted at the time we now know is wrong we now know how not to react differently.

When at the crossroads choose to take the path towards your true self not the path your negative thoughts want to go. Accept we are having negative thoughts because we know what has happened and what is challenging us. These protective emotional responses surface bringing thoughts of what may transpire. We do not dismiss these thoughts because our brain through our past hard times is now doing its best to protect you from harm now. The thoughts and emotions created are not always helpful, but we know why they are present. We have the freedom to choose how we react and can choose to take the path towards our true selves. This enables us to better able to control our emotional responses. If too difficult we can choose to ask for help. Knowing that asking for help is a strength and also what our loved ones would want us to do. We remind ourselves that we maybe yet to, in the future, experience the best moment in our life.

There's a Census job for you



Census

- ✓ Support your community
- ✓ Work flexibly and locally
- ✓ Temporary jobs available all over Australia

See all opportunities at
census.abs.gov.au/jobs



There's a Census job for you

Did you know the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is hiring over 30,000 people for the Census? From capital cities to regional towns and remote areas, people are needed all over Australia to make sure everyone is supported to participate.

By working in a Census field job, you'll collect the data that helps inform local services for your community. That's everything from schools to health centres, transport and infrastructure.

There are a variety of temporary jobs available in your local area. You can earn extra money and work flexibly across weekdays, weekends and evenings.

Jobs can include delivering Census letters and forms, answering questions from the public, and assisting households that haven't yet responded. Some jobs can also involve managing a team of people on the ground.

Applications for Field Officer jobs are now open. The ABS is looking for a broad range of people to apply to reflect the diversity of Australian communities. No experience is required for these jobs.

Support your community's future by working for the 2026 Census. To apply and see all opportunities visit census.abs.gov.au/jobs.

Glen Graham 0438 278 076

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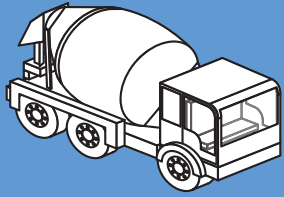
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COMMUNITY GROUPS

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.

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

paul@gatewayparish.org

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 Fire Shed

President - Gillian Hansen - 0488 911 902

Secretary - Lou Cowan - 0490 808 044

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 - Sarah Kaye - 0422 847 711

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

Thursday 9-11am at the Wandering CWA Rooms
Christine Warburton on 0427899969

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

AUGUST

9AM | TUESDAY 11TH
PUMPHREYS CWA MEETING

7PM | THURSDAY 13TH
WANDERING LIONS MEETING

11AM | WEDNESDAY 19TH
WANDERING CWA MEETING

3.30PM | THURSDAY 20TH
COUNCIL MEETING

6.30PM | TUESDAY 25TH
AUTUTMN GRAZE MEETING

6PM | THURSDAY 27TH
MEN'S NIGHT

10.30AM | SUNDAY 30TH
WANDERING CHURCH SERVICE

8.30AM - 3.30PM | MONDAY 31ST
SCHOOL BOOK FAIR



Wandering

Community Resource Centre

your local connection