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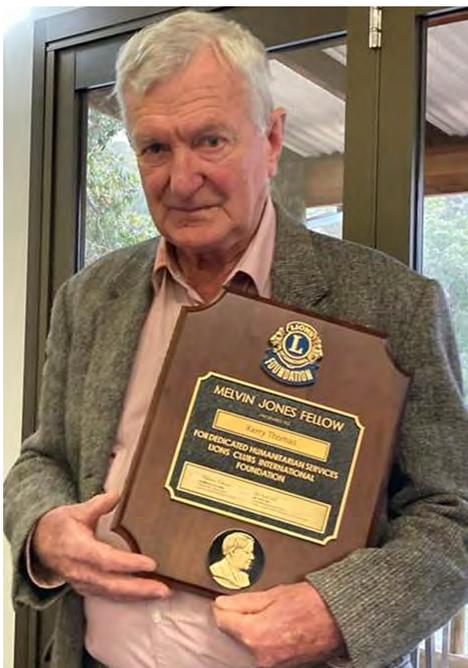


AUGUST 2025

# THE DARDANUP TIMES

A Newsletter for the localities of Dardanup • Crooked Brook • Ferguson • Wellington Mill • Dardanup West Waterloo • Paradise • Henty

## Dardanup Lions Club



### Melvin Jones awardee - Kerry Thomas

Is it possible to do well for the community and simultaneously have fun and good times added to the bonds of friendships formed in common causes. Kerry Thomas personifies achieving this in his part played in Dardanup Lions Club. Geeing on members and calling for sober examination of causes we may take up. He has enjoyed serving the club in most capacities. Thus the giving of highest Lions Award the Melvin Jones Fellowship.

### Phil Ottrey

*Eds note; well done to Kerry who has worked tirelessly for this community over many years many years*

### Dardanup Lions 2025/2026 executive



L to r - Henny Royendyk- *Lion Tamer*; Tony Golding- *President*; David Moore – *Membership*; John Duzevich- *Assistant Secretary*; Rob Webster- *Secretary*; Keith Patterson- *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*; Kevin Robinson- *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*; Grant Ruland- *Treasurer*; Phil Ottrey- *Club LCI Liaison & Publicity*; Shane Gibson- *1 yr Director*; Hartley Bell- *Tail Twister*; Mick Leonard- *Safety Officer*

## Dardanup Horse and Pony Club News

Dardanup Horse and Pony Club hosted their annual ODE earlier this year on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The event was again a great success with heights ranging from 45cm up to 105cm. A fantastic weekend was had by all 85 competitors, local and as far as Albany. Our small but mighty event committee led by Amelia Radford volunteered many hours into making this event happen and getting our XC course looking amazing. Club members put in lots of time in the lead up and across the event weekend making it run smoothly and successfully.

Sponsors play a big part in contributing to successful events. Our naming rights sponsor for 2025 was All Lift Lifting Services, a local Dardanup family, so big thanks to them. We would like to thank some of our generous class sponsors – Piacentini and Sons, GT Fabrication, Horseland Bunbury, Farmco Boyanup, Inspirations Paint, Tronox, South West Tree Safe, Azform and South West Equine. It was great to have many local business's support our club event.

We look forward to hosting some xc training days later in the year more events to utilise our xc course in 2026.

**Kristen DeBrito**



Dardanup Horse and Pony Club Member Ava DeBrito Competed at the ODE

**Wespine News**

**Wespine Supports Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB) Impact Ranger Training**

Fire has been an important tool for First Nations Australians for thousands of years, helping to care for Country by promoting healthy ecosystems and reducing bushfire risk. GKB Impact Rangers are expanding their practical skills in cultural burning to offer this service more broadly. They aim to work with landowners and managers to help care for Country and minimise the risks and impacts of bushfires across the South West.

Wespine recently partnered with the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services to support Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB) Impact Ranger fire training at our Dardanup plantation.

We are proud to back initiatives that care for Country and strengthen our community.



**Authors Talk**  
**HOLDEN SHEPPARD**

6pm - 7.30pm  
Thursday, 28 August  
Eaton Library - 18+ Event  
Bookings essential



**Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre News**

The Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre (FVVC) housed in the old State School Building in Dardanup is freshly painted, upgraded and open daily 10 – 2 pm winter hours. Come and visit the Centre for gifts and cards by local artists including Elli Barrett, our current featured Artist. Elli is a self-taught watercolour and oil Artist who has her delightful “By the Crooked Brook” range of watercolour greeting cards in the gift store. “My work can be described as whimsical and joyful, and I love painting animals in a style that captures their unique personalities and cutest quirks” They represent the joys of nature and will be sure to make you smile – perfect for Father’s Day!



*Elli Barrett With Her Art Work*



The Centre will have a Father’s Day promotion with our Stubby holders (with Ferguson Valley Artwork) stuffed with Licorice Allsorts or a Snake/Mints combo for \$15, call in to preorder/ pay or by phone 97281 551 from 10 – 2 daily up to **Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>** to be picked up that weekend.

Save the date for the Ferguson Valley Open Gardens on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October. We will be selling plants from the veranda so donations of seedlings and cuttings up to a 10 cm pot welcome. Coffee, tea and cakes available. Also look out for the FVVC Christmas Fete on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Please follow and share us on fb and Instagram for the Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre – it is a lovely building to volunteer in and meet happy people on holidays! We would love more people to share the 7 day a week roster.

Please ring us or leave a message you are interested on 97 281 551. **Robyn Jones**



**FREE Chair Yoga - Tuesday 5th August, Tuesday 19th August, Tuesday 2nd September and Tuesday 16th September. Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Venue: Wells Recreation Club Rooms – Dardanup, Cost: FREE, Organised by the Shire of Dardanup**

**DARDANUP BULL & BARREL FESTIVAL**  
**SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER**  
10 am to 5 pm  
& entertainment til 9pm  
**FREE ENTRY**

## Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival News

Tastes of Ferguson Valley Marquee is the place to visit on Festival day. Conveniently located in front of the Tronox Main Stage where you can enjoy live music from 10.00am – 7.30pm whilst tasting wines and beer from Ferguson Valley. The Marquee will be open from 12.00pm til 5.00pm for free tastings and sales including take aways from 12.00pm – 7.30pm. Ideal opportunity to grab some of the local wines or beer to take home as this is the only time you will find all located under the one roof. The very popular Dardanup Lions Bar offering beers and canned spirits is also located in the Tastes of Ferguson Valley Marquee. This year the Festival Committee has organised gourmet food stalls in the marquee as well as other food vans conveniently located just outside the Licenced area.

Pop into the Tastes of Ferguson Valley marquee and purchase your Festival tasting glass or goblet - example below of the 2025 glasses featuring the purple Festival logo. How many of you have a wine tasting glass from each year?



The following wineries and brewery will all be found in the Tastes of Ferguson Valley marquee along with a cidery and distillery- Fifth Estate Wines, Henty View Vineyard, Mazza Wines, St Aidan Wines, Rascals Corner, Hackersley Wines, Willow Bridge Estate, Talisman Wines, Green Door Wines, Fearon Wines, Crooked Brook Wines, Bush Shack Brewery, Run A Muck Cidery, Cuprum Distillery.

## Thank You

Thankyou to Darline Morgan and Jess Palazzolo for collating and organising the printing of the July edition of the Dardanup Times and our new folding assistant to Lance Hurst – Lionel Machen.

## Dardanup Senior Citizens Inc

At our meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> July we had 15 in attendance. As we get older, we have illnesses, Doctors appointments & other responsibilities so its great when we can all get together! Discussions regarding our Christmas function at the Dardanup Heritage Park on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. 18 Members enjoyed lunch at the Green Jade Restaurant.

We are saddened by the passing of our Member Ron Farr, a great community person. He enjoyed our last bus trip & river cruise at Augusta.



Much of FVM's time in recent weeks has been focused on end of year accounts, finalising the 25/26 tourist maps and the re skilling of 5 road side maps as well as finalising the Association membership. We had 8 new businesses join the association this year taking membership to 61 business from micro to larger all based across the Shires of Dardanup, Harvey, Collie and City of Bunbury. Our first Welcome and New Member night for this financial year will be hosted by Danny Drummond at the Wild Bull Brewery on Pile Road.

Chair Yoga for 2025/2026 provided to ALL residents by the Shire of Dardanup. Held at Wells Recreation Hall 1 -2pm. 22/7, 5/8, 19/8, 2/9, 16/9, 14/10, 28/10, 11/11, 25/11, 3/12, 17/3, 31/3, 21/4, 5/5, 19/5, 2/6, 16/6, & 30/6. Please take advantage of this being available free in our local area.

Stay warm, stay well, stay safe &  
**Remember to Smell the Roses.**  
Revely Gardiner 0408833761



Please put Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August in your diary and keep an eye out for your emailed invitation to the evening. In the mean time you may wish to call into the Wild Bull and introduce yourself to Wild Bull's new manager Daniel Christie.

This years AGM has been set for the 18<sup>th</sup> September. All are welcome to attend and learn firsthand what FVM has achieved in 2024-25. The AGM will see several long term Board members stand down having completed their term and we invite anyone interested in joining this increasingly effective team to nominate for the board. Anyone passionate about helping to grow the well being of the Valley and surrounding areas are warmly encouraged to nominate.



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August heralds the beginning of the Noongar Season *Djilba*. It is referred to as the first Spring and it is when we begin to enjoy the initial flush of wildflower blooms. Generally we still

experience a mix of wet days, clear cold nights, and this trend doesn't change until late in the month or into September. We have had a series of cold fronts bringing welcome rains but the mornings have been rather chilly! In frosty areas keep an eye out for low single digit or minus temperatures and make sure you keep protecting those sensitive crops.

Winter crops are hardy to the cold and continue to produce an abundance, so it is the perfect time to preserve any excess for use later. Many of the kales, Brussel sprouts and winter roots taste better/sweeter after a frost. This time of year I take the opportunity to freeze batches of washed and chopped mixed greens and portion up sautéed 'soffrito' (carrot, celery and onions) for use in cooking later. It saves me a good 15mins prep and cooking time which is very welcome on a busy weeknight. It is time to start planning and planting for your spring and summer garden. Raising plants from seed is the cheapest way to produce abundant vegetables. Try to purchase organic, open pollinated seed as it gives you the option of keeping your own seed at the end of the season and gives you greater choice of varieties. The soil is still cold so the best choices are faster growing crops (40-60 days) such as Radish, Bok Choi, Pak Choy, Rocket, Mizuna, Tatsoi, Spinach and Turnip and some of the slightly slower growing (60+ days) Beetroot, Peas, Carrots, Parsnips and Broad beans. Root crops prefer to be direct sown where they are to grow as they don't like the root disturbance. For other crops you can start the seeds in tray, punnets or pots to reduce rotting or them getting eaten before germination. You can also speed up the germination rate by soaking larger or wood seeds overnight and if you have a warm spot of greenhouse they will appreciate being kept out of the wind and for the soil & ambient air temperature to be above 10 degrees.

This summer season you will need to keep in mind that Tomato, Capsicum and Chilli seeds may be limited to the supply Fruit Virus out of WA. It is worth going through your stash or searching out your favourites early so you don't miss out. Now is the perfect time to get them started, especially if you want home grown tomatoes before Christmas. Most summer crops such as tomatoes, beans, corn, cucumbers, and zucchini need warmer soil at 15+ degrees C. You can grow these in a greenhouse, on a window sill or a sheltered sunny corner with a cloth at night. Capsicum, chilli, melons and pumpkins are some of the most sensitive to cold and need soil temperature in excess of 18 degrees C, so are best planted in ground in November.

To give your seeds the best start, a good quality seed raising medium/soil is very important. You already in WA, this is in an effort to keep Tomato Brown Rugose can purchase ready made ones or make your own with Compost, Coir peat and Sand. There are a variety of different 'recipes' on the internet just remember a good mix should be light and airy, whilst retaining moisture without becoming waterlogged. Remember to wear your PPE when handling compost, potting soil and mulches - Even the homemade ones! There have been quite a few deaths linked to Legionnaires disease in the greater Bunbury region over the last few years. Wear a face mask and gloves when opening bags and keep your mix moist when using. Dispose of the bags and Wash your hands well afterwards.

If like me you have a few weeds around the garden, why not turn them into garden gold and make some compost. It is a great activity for warming you up on a cold day! Choose a bin, bay or heap to suit your garden size. You don't have to get it perfect the first time - start simply by adding layers of weeds, dry leaves, spent hay, prunings and kitchen scraps, "lasagne style" and make sure each layer is moist/wet before adding the next. With a cool or cold compost you don't have fill the bin in one go, you can add more as you have materials available and it will take 6-9months to break down. I like to make it where I need it rather than wheelbarrowing it around the countryside... Pop one of you compost bins directly into a garden bed that needs a bit of love and fill it there. Once is to full and broken down, lift the bin off, spread out the compost and move the bin to the next spot.

*Want to get busy planting in the vegie patch?* While it is still a bit cold, quick growing crops are best. As it warms up then you can plant more: Leaf crops - Asian greens, Cress, Lettuce, Mustard greens, Watercress, Purslane, Rocket, French Sorrel, Spinach. Brassica crops\* seedlings - Cabbage. Root crops - Beetroot, Radish, Kohlrabi. Legume crops - Snow peas, Dwarf Peas, Broad beans. Onion family - Leeks, Onions, Spring onions. Perennial Herbs - Artichoke, Asparagus, Strawberry plants, Nasturtium, Cape Gooseberry, Mint. Greenhouse only / heat mat - Capsicum, Chilli, Eggplant, Tomato, Sunflower

The next Sustainable Living Workshop is on Thursday 14/8/25 at the Dardanup Hall, 10-11.30am. Topic: **Balancing Biodiversity and Productivity in your Garden**. How do we create a haven for wildlife and still manage to harvest plenty of fruit & vegies? Beneficial pollinators play a key role in the productivity and health of our gardens, but sometimes there are a few garden visitors that take more than their fair share. Come along as we discuss ways to keep our Gardens both beautiful and productive. Bookings essential ph: **9724000** or on the website [dardanup.wa.gov.au/events](http://dardanup.wa.gov.au/events)

### Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre Needs You!

Volunteers for ½ day per month are most welcome and you don't have to know everything about local tourism as lots of support available and info all at hand. For further information contact Gae Bessen, Coordinator,  
[gbessen@bigpond.com](mailto:gbessen@bigpond.com), 0417 099 100

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**The Shire of Dardanup has officially ditched the use of harmful second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in favour of wildlife-friendly first-generation alternatives across its facilities — a move designed to better protect native species and pets.**

Following feedback from concerned residents and in support of ongoing campaigns by BirdLife Australia, the Shire has transitioned to using first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) at key locations including the Library, Administration and Community Building, Eaton Recreation Centre, Eaton Foreshore toilets, Shire Depot, Dardanup Office and Dardanup Hall. Shire CEO André Schönfeldt said the change reflects the Shire’s strong commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible pest control practices. “We’ve listened to our community and acted to ensure our pest control measures align with our values,” Mr Schönfeldt said. “SGARs may be effective at killing rodents, but they’re also deadly to the animals that eat those rodents –

including our owls, ospreys, lizards, and even beloved pets. That’s simply not good enough. “By switching to first-generation products, which biodegrade much faster and pose far less risk to native predators, we’re helping keep our wildlife safe while still managing pests effectively.” Mr Schönfeldt said SGARs accumulate in the bodies of animals that consume poisoned rodents, often resulting in secondary poisoning and death — especially in birds of prey that are critical to natural rodent control. In contrast, FGARs are considered a safer alternative, as their faster breakdown reduces the likelihood of poisoning non-target species. *Eds note; All the community should take the lead from the Shire if they haven’t already done so and eliminate the use of SGARs. Kirk and Emma from Dardanup Rural or Liz from the Dardanup Vets will be able to advise on the best FGARs products to use, if required.*

**FERGUSON HALL NEWS**

Ferguson Hall Management Committee continues to maintain our Lessee responsibilities with termite and other management. Thanks to all who volunteer on the Committee to keep the 1960’s Community built building to standard and provide a public space for our wonderful Community to come together. Community Choir open to all 7-9 pm on Mondays and Yoga with Gyani 5.45 pm on Wednesdays. Hire enquiries to Robyn on [bse7@bigpond.com](mailto:bse7@bigpond.com)

There will be no Sundowner in August with the next event a **Community Dinner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September**. The Long Table Dinners are popular so come and meet your friendly neighbours with a winter hot dish or dessert to share, BYO drinks. Doors open at 6 pm and aim to eat at 6.30, oven will be on! Save the date for the **Mucky Duck Bush Band on 18<sup>th</sup> October** – tickets available through Lost & Found Festival. Great Family fun and a Quiz Night planned for November.

**Dates for your calendar!**

- August - No Committee Meeting/Sundowner
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Community Dinner. BYO winter dish to share & drinks. 6 pm start and eat 6.30 pm.
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Sundowner from 6 pm
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Mucky Duck Bush Band, Tickets \$25 via Lost & Found Festival, 6.30 –10 pm
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Quiz Night. Doors open from 6 pm with Tickets to be advertised.
- 5<sup>th</sup> December – Community BBQ Dinner, BYO BBQ item & Drinks, share salad or sweet. 6 pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> December - Ferguson Community Christmas Tree. Details to be advertised.

**Robyn Jones**

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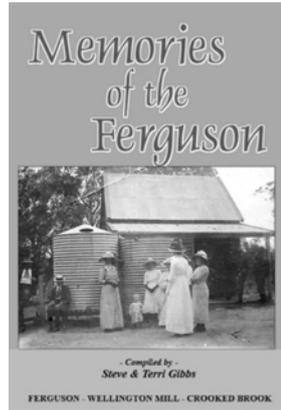
## Dardanup Heritage Collective News

### *Memories of the Ferguson*

Ferguson residents Steve and Terri Gibbs, spent years compiling stories of the history of the Ferguson Valley, publishing them in 2002 as *Memories of the Ferguson*. The book was very popular and soon sold out. Republishing a print version proved difficult but Steve and Terri recently gave permission for the Dardanup Heritage Collective to make available a free PDF version of the book from the Collective's web site.

To access and download this book, go to: [dardanupheritagecollective.org.au](http://dardanupheritagecollective.org.au) and using the "Search" button (top right), type in "History books for sale" (even though this one is free!). Open the top result. All our local history books are listed there and the Ferguson book is at the base of the page. Just click on the picture of the book cover to start the download. A huge thank you to Steve and Terri for all that work nearly 25 years ago and for allowing the book to be made available once again.

**Janice Calcei**



## Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festivals

**Annual Thrift Shop Fashion Show and High Tea** will be returning on **Sunday 31 August**, 12.30pm at the Dardanup Hall. This is a fundraiser for the Festival, Solaris Cancercare and Salvos SW. Get you tables together now! See poster on the back pages. To book a seat/table email [jill.cross@bigpond.com](mailto:jill.cross@bigpond.com) or text 0418 281 201

## Boyanup Farmers Market

*Chris & Dave's Compost and Straw Bales 4 You* are two great stalls at Boyanup Farmers Market for two perfect products, to help green thumbs prep their plots with high-quality compost and pea straw bales. Perfect for your vegetable patch and garden beds, nothing like growing you own vegetables. They even load into your vehicle or trailer for you, with easy access to the loading area.

We have a wide range of plant stalls, including vegetable seedlings, fruit trees and lots more to assist with your garden too.

Thank you to everyone that supports our local growers and makers hope to see you at our next market on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2025.

**Tanya Williams**  
Market Manager

## Dardanup Heritage Collective AGM

Are you interested in local history? This group meets monthly and we have some fascinating discussions as Dardanup and localities a wealth of history. Maybe you are interested in interviewing locals for our oral history collection - training provided or maybe doing some cataloguing of our collection along with Collective members which we will be commencing in the near future.

Come along on Friday 15 August, 1pm at the Dardanup Shire Office and see if the Dardanup Heritage Collective is something you are interested in.

## Country Music Club News

**17th August** Hugh Kilpatrick Hall Boyanup  
Jam session 10.30 - 12.30 pm Light lunch available  
Dance begins 1.00 - 4.30 pm with Perth Band BAD HEARTS  
**21st September** Australind Seniors Hall Mardo Avenue  
Dance 1.00 - 4.30 pm Music provided by Perth band  
BANDWAGON

At each dance we have the usual raffles, door prizes, tea/ coffee & afternoon tea available.

A great afternoon of fun and dancing. Everyone welcome  
Admission: Members \$10. Visitors \$15.00  
For more info. contact Vienna 0417 961 456  
or Sue 0467 070 248

## Shire of Dardanup Library programmes

### Little Jigglers

Monday 4th August 2025  
Monday 18th August 2025  
Monday 1st September 2025  
**Time:** 9:30 am - 10:00 am

**Location:** Dardanup Hall, 19 Ferguson Road, Dardanup

**Venue:** Dardanup Hall

**Cost:** Free

**Booking:** with the Shire

### Discover your Family History

**August 21st, 2025, 5:30-7:00pm**

**Roots Tech Revisited-** What is Roots Tech and what is all the fuss about? Come along to see what sort of things you can find out about and how to access these free training sessions on-line

**Time:** 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Eaton Community Library, 1 Council Drive Eaton WA

**Venue:** Eaton Community Library

**Cost:** Free

### Author's Talk – Holden Sheppard at Eaton Library

Award-winning author Holden Sheppard will visit Eaton Community Library on Thursday, 28 August for a special Author's Talk and Q&A session, hosted by fellow author Dr Aksel Dadswell. As part of his national tour, Holden will discuss his latest novel *King of Dirt*, a gritty coming-of-age story set in WA. Collins Booksellers will be on-site with books available for purchase and signing. This is an 18+ event, with exceptions for 15-17-year-olds accompanied by a parent or guardian. Bookings are essential. See Ad pg 2

### Thinking of running for Council?

The Shire is hosting a Candidate Information Session to support community members considering nominating for the 2025 Local Government Elections. This session will provide valuable insights into the role of a Councillor, the responsibilities involved, and the nomination process. It's a great opportunity to hear directly from current Councillors and ask questions in an informal setting. The session will be held on **Wednesday, 13 August 2025**, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm at the Council Chambers, 1 Council Drive, Eaton. All interested residents are encouraged to attend. Got questions? Give our friendly Governance Team Managers Donna Bailye and Cindy Barbetti a call on (08) 9724 0310 or email at [governance@dardanup.wa.gov.au](mailto:governance@dardanup.wa.gov.au) See Ad Pg 9



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The 2025 Local Government Elections are on 18 October 2025. The Shire of Dardanup is calling on passionate locals to step forward.

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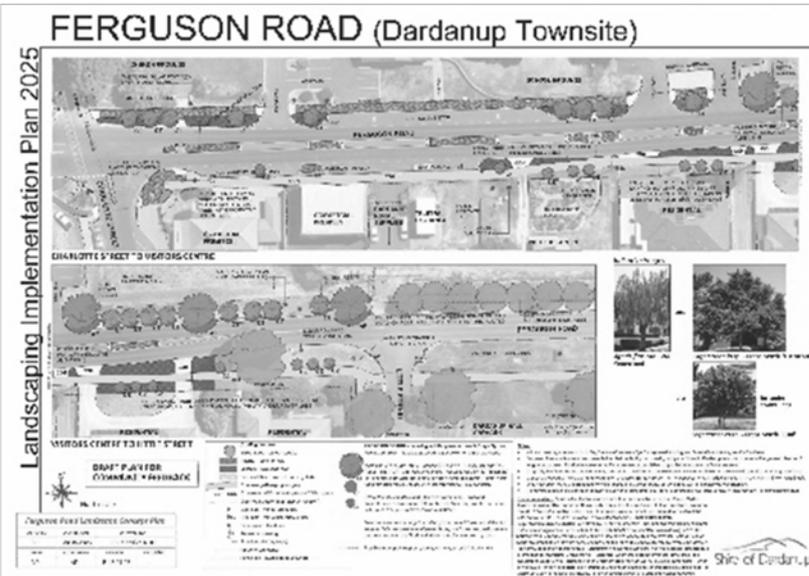
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**Shire of Dardanup News**

**Ferguson Road Landscaping – Community feedback invited**

The Shire is seeking community input on a proposed landscaping project along Ferguson Road, between Charlotte and Little Streets in Dardanup. With \$55,000 allocated in the 2025/26 Budget, the project aims to enhance the streetscape with new trees and mulching to improve visual appeal, shade, and biodiversity. A draft plan is available for public comment **until Wednesday, 6 August 2025**. Residents can view the plan online or in person at the Dardanup and Eaton Admin Offices and submit feedback via email, post, or in person.



Worm Shed. Held at the Eaton Community Library on **Thursday, 14 August from 4-5pm**, this Planet Matters event will teach attendees how to turn kitchen scraps into nutrient-rich compost, reduce household waste, and improve soil health. The session is suitable for all ages, and no prior experience is needed. Bookings can be made via the Shire’s website, or attendees can simply drop in.

**Responsible pet ownership – Keeping pets safe**

The Shire reminds residents of the importance of responsible pet ownership to help keep animals safe and out of the pound. Rangers have noted an increase in impounded pets, many of which could have been returned quickly if registered or microchipped. Pet owners are encouraged to ensure their animals are registered, microchipped, and kept secure at home. Other key responsibilities include cleaning up after pets, keeping dogs on leads in public areas, and preventing nuisance behaviours such as excessive barking.

**Shire Given Green Light For Local Planning Scheme No.9**

*From the Shires website*

The Shire of Dardanup’s planning framework has entered a new era, with the Western Australian Planning Commission approving Local Planning Scheme No. 9 (LPS9). LPS9 was published in the Government Gazette on 23 June 2025 and now replaces Town Planning Scheme No. 3, which has been in effect since 1979.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner described the approval as a “game-changer” for the community.

“We’re now working with a planning framework that reflects the needs and opportunities of the 21st Century,” Cr Gardiner said.

“This is about setting the foundations for responsible growth while preserving the lifestyle, environment and values that make the Shire of Dardanup such a great place to live.”

Cr Gardiner said the updated scheme brings the Shire in line with current State planning policy and provides greater clarity and consistency for landowners, developers and the wider community.

“With the South West region continuing to attract new residents and investment, the Local Planning Scheme No. 9 is key to ensuring well-managed development that supports thriving, connected communities,” he said.

**Farewell to Cr Taneta Bell**

The Shire of Dardanup extends heartfelt thanks to Cr Taneta Bell, who has resigned after nearly two years of dedicated service. Cr Bell has been a passionate advocate for the community, known for her warmth, insight, and commitment. Her contributions have been deeply appreciated by both Council and staff, and she will be missed. The Shire wishes her all the best in her future endeavours and thanks her sincerely for her service.

*Eds note; on behalf of the community thank you Taneta for all your efforts*



**Next Gen Skills Program – Life skills for young people**

This September school holidays, the Shire of Dardanup is launching the Next Gen Skills Program (29 September-3 October), a dynamic initiative aimed at equipping young people aged 14-25 with practical, real-world skills to support life after school. The program includes hands-on workshops covering topics such as health, finance, trades, technology, and culture. Participants can choose to attend individual sessions or take part in the full week of activities. It’s a great opportunity for youth to build confidence and capability in areas that matter most as they transition into adulthood.

**Planet Matters – Worm farming workshop**

Families, gardeners, and composting enthusiasts are invited to a fun and educational worm farming session hosted by The



**For further information about Local Planning Scheme No. 9, visit the Shires website**

**Shire of Dardanup President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner and Senior Strategic Planning Officer Suzanne Occhipinti celebrate the long-awaited approval of the Shire’s Local Planning Scheme No.9 (LPS9) recently.**

### Shire Budget Reflects Responsible, Community-Oriented Investment

From the Shire website

The Shire of Dardanup adopted its 2025/26 Annual Budget at last night's Ordinary Council Meeting, reflecting a disciplined and forward-looking approach to financial sustainability while continuing to invest in essential services and infrastructure for a growing community.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner acknowledged that the decision to increase rates by 6.1% was not taken lightly, especially given the financial pressures many households are currently experiencing.

"We know that times are tough for many in our community, and any increase in household costs can be difficult," Cr Gardiner said.

"This year's 6.1% increase in general rate revenue is necessary to keep up with inflation and the rising costs of delivering essential services, as well as to invest in renewing the infrastructure our community relies on every day." Cr Gardiner emphasised that the Valuer General's revaluation reflects strong growth and increasing demand for property in the Shire of Dardanup.

"The 49% average increase in residential property rental values is a sign of the desirability and continued development of our region," Cr Gardiner said.

"In response, Council has reduced the rate in the dollar to ensure this growth doesn't translate to an unrealistic rates burden. We're committed to managing this transition responsibly and supporting our community with fair, sustainable financial decisions."

The 2025/26 Budget outlines a budgeted operating expenditure of \$42 million, with a surplus of \$173,999 and a strong focus on maintaining service levels, renewing infrastructure, and preparing for future growth.

"We're being responsible today to avoid problems tomorrow," Cr Gardiner said.

"This budget reflects our commitment to long-term financial sustainability, ensuring we can continue to meet the needs of our community now and into the future."

#### Community satisfaction drives strategic investment

The Shire's budget priorities have been shaped in part by community feedback received through the [2025 MARKYT Community Satisfaction Scorecard](#), where nearly 900 residents shared their views.

The Shire was recognised as one of WA's top-performing local governments, ranking 2nd overall among regional councils and 8th out of more than 70 councils that have participated in the Scorecard since 2003.

The Shire was celebrated as an industry leader in several key areas, reflecting high levels of satisfaction across a broad range of services.

Cr Gardiner said this feedback has reinforced the Council's commitment to maintaining service quality while planning responsibly for the future.

"Our community has told us what matters most, and this budget responds to that," Cr Gardiner said.

"We're investing in the areas that residents value – roads, parks, community programs – while ensuring we remain financially resilient."

#### Key budget highlights:

- **\$5.32 million** for roads, bridges, pathways, and drainage upgrades.
- **\$1.92 million** for building construction and renewals.

- **\$392,523** for parks and reserves improvements.
- **\$431,644** for community grants, events, and programs.

#### Capital works: \$9.15 million:

- New/upgrades/expansions/renewals.
- Eaton Recreation Centre – doors, bollards
- Dardanup Hall.
- Don Hewison Centre.
- Library, Administration and Community building – electrical services.
- Eaton Drive – Traffic signals at Glen Huon Boulevard.
- Eaton Drive - New intersection at Cudliss Street.
- Busher Road intersection upgrade.
- Crooked Brook Road Bridge – design.
- Henty Road seal widening.
- Hamilton Road – Ann Street left out construction.
- Ferguson Rd landscaping.
- Various road reseal projects throughout the Shire.
- Various pathway renewals and Improvements including Pratt Road Reserve – Watson Reserve.
- East Millbridge Public Open Space – Retic and Kick Around Area.
- Lot 4739 Pratt Road – electrical upgrade.
- Eaton Town Centre – landscaping/drainage.
- Various park and planting renewals.

#### Depreciation: \$7.34 million

#### Asset maintenance (excluding overheads): \$4.91 million:

- Transport and drainage maintenance.
- Parks and reserves maintenance.

#### Buildings maintenance.

#### Law, order and public safety and health \$1.38 million.

#### Community services and economic development \$1.90 million.

- Libraries and Make-It Space.
- Community programs, events and festivals.
- Education, welfare and community services.

#### Economic services.

#### Waste, sanitation and environment protection \$2.02 million.

#### Developments services \$2.03 million:

#### Planning and building.

#### Eaton Recreation Centre \$1.67 million.

#### Administration costs \$8.58 million:

- Employee costs.
- Software licensing and services.
- Materials and contracts.
- Finance costs.
- Administration overheads.

#### General purpose, governance and other expenditure.

#### Public works \$3.02 million.

#### Investing in the future

"The Shire's key focus is to preserve and maintain the assets our community relies on today, while also building reserves to deliver the infrastructure and renewal projects our growing community will need tomorrow," Cr Gardiner said. "We're using our reserves wisely while ensuring we're setting aside enough to meet future renewal demands, in line with our revised Long Term Financial Plan."

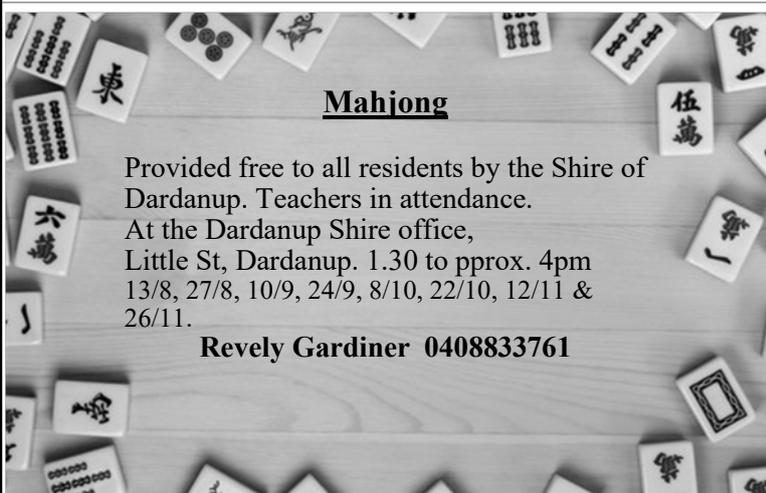


## Dardanup Community Choir

**7pm Mondays at the  
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Helen Humphreys | 0422 095 870 | hkhumphs@gmail.com

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**



## Mahjong

Provided free to all residents by the Shire of Dardanup. Teachers in attendance.

At the Dardanup Shire office,  
Little St, Dardanup. 1.30 to pprox. 4pm  
13/8, 27/8, 10/9, 24/9, 8/10, 22/10, 12/11 &  
26/11.

**Revely Gardiner 0408833761**

## France Or Bust

Who's mad idea was it to cycle around France? Well for a week anyhow! This was the aim of our friends Peta and Michael Gelmi and Tom and I, given none of us are spring chickens and only 1 of us regularly cycle. Me down to the front gate and back a couple of times before we left.

Arriving in Bordeaux and after a guided tour of that beautiful city we hauled our 8 suitcases to the large Bordeaux train station bound for La Rochelle, a city on the west coast of France. Our 1<sup>st</sup> experience at using French public transport wasn't a good one. Luckily we had bought our tickets online but despite this we couldn't find anyone to direct us to our train platform. The French in general don't speak a lot of English and you rarely over hear conversations in English. There was 6 halls which meant 6 areas where people gather to get on the train, so we are talking a huge train station and us lugging 8 suitcases up and down escalators in search of said platform must have looked rather comical. Anyhow with literally 2 seconds to spare we jumped on the train with the closing door nipping our backsides. We learnt a valuable lesson – look for the 4 small numbers on your ticket which will align with the train you have to catch. From then on over the next 3 weeks we became experts and rarely needed to ask for help. La Rochelle is a seaside city with an internal harbour and the old fortifications visible, built around the 11- 1300s. At the time of our visit there was a Festival being held so the place was very busy, pop up bands playing every 50 metres which tests your senses as everyone eats outside. Whilst we were enjoying our 1<sup>st</sup> seafood meal a drumming band decided to play in between the 2 existing bands. Very chaotic and entertaining. The tables at restaurants are all very close and the French seem to eat out a lot and they are able to smoke at the tables. Cant say it was ever so noticeable as mostly they seem to smoke e cigarettes so the smoke was controlled. Regardless you do notice far more people smoking that at home.

We met our cycling hosts the next day. Susan originally from Canada and her partner David originally from England but both living in France for quite some years. Luckily we were the only people on the tour so we had lots of attention from this pair. They also had a mini van to carry our suitcases which they advised we should cut in half thus leaving 4 at the hotel for our return as we had to train back to La Rochelle to continue onto the next leg of our journey. Thank god for lithium and e bikes. Forgot to mention that and bet you were thinking this was not going to be pretty. Anyhow once we all got the hang of riding an e bike it wasn't so hard doing our 50 kms per day. Susan or David took the lead each day and the other drove the van. It soon became clear to them that we needed to stop mid morning for a coffee. This became a challenge, not the stopping but what sought of coffee we would end up with. The French like their short blacks and I became a fan of those but my companions enjoyed milk with theirs and sometimes would order extra milk as the spoon could stand up in the coffee. And just because they advertise latte and you order latte didn't mean you would get a latte or any sought of coffee with milk. Anyhow one thing for certain was the baguettes filled with chicken and salad at lunch were divine and all the cakes not only looked delicious but tasted so as well. The french are big bread eaters and you always get a basket of sliced baguette with every meal whether you order it or not. The baguettes don't keep so the French buy fresh every day and we often saw people walking back from the boulangerie( bakery) with a baguette under their arm. The supermarkets are small too. Nothing like Woollies or Coles but a lot smaller. Spose if everyone eats out there is no need for too much food in the pantry. The other thing we did notice is that no one opens up til 10am, some shops close for few hours in the middle of the day and open again about 3 until 7pm and everyone stays up very late no matter the day of the week and this includes children. Im talking 10.30/11.00pm here. Cycling was certainly a different way to see the countryside as you see the small details. We all stopped each time we saw an otter or the huge white swans along with their cygnets which are common. Cattle always attracted attention, mainly Charolais and Limousin and the wheat, barley, corn and sunflower crops with Michael giving Susan and David a lesson on how to tell the difference between the 2 cereal crops and how they are harvested. We stopped in little villages and toured a chateaux, and old roman coliseum and Hennessey's

cognac processing plant in Cognac , following the coast along the way and the Charente River. We stayed in lovely hotels, some with swimming pools which was welcome as some days were warm. We cycled mainly on cycle paths which could be rocky and some of the time we had to cycle through built up areas and main roads with me crossing all fingers and toes. Though cyclists have right of way in this country. Anyhow we all made it to Cognac with none of us falling off and cycling 268 kms. And yes my backside got sore for the first few days and I had padded nickers and padded gell seat to boot. Should have done a few more kms on my bike before I left home!

Next stop was a place called Puy Du Fou where we stayed for 2 days. Its hard to describe except to say its unbelievable. Its set on about 500 acres with lives shows set on about 10 stages, mostly outdoor and some inside theatres. Most shows seat about 2-3000 people with the evening show probably closer to 10,000. The shows are all at different times and last for 20-30 minutes and depict part of Frances history. We went into a recreated roman coliseum and witnessed chariots races, parades and mock battles, another with birds of prey swooping above the audience, knights jousting and lots and lots of special effects too numerous to mention. The engineering feats were unbelievable. On the boundaries of the theme park are themed hotels. We stayed in a mediaeval hotel with the staff all wearing medieval costumes and ate in another hotel that was themed on Place of Versailles. We saw 10 shows in the 2 days plus the evening show which was spectacular - water spouts moving in time to music, coloured lights and people diving off platforms into water. You name it and Puy du Fou does it.

Onto Paris for a week and seeing all the sights; Eiffel tower, Notre Dame, Saint Chapelle, Palace of Versailles, Musee de Orsay and the Louvre to mention a few. One day we visited an art display of colourful inflatables in the Grand Palais and when we came outside found ourselves in the middle of a huge South American themed carnival that wound it way down the Champs de Elysée.

Then we trained down to Avignon where we boarded a river cruise for 2 weeks. The 1st leg was on the Rhone River finishing at Lyon where we trained to Paris to get on the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg on the Seine from Paris to Rouen where we bused to the Normandy beach's and viewed museums and cemeteries; the site of the WW2 invasions by the Americans, British, Australians and Canadians in 1944. Back on the Seine to Paris stopping to see Monets garden and Malmaison, the home of Josephine and Napoleon Bonaparte. So much history in France and some of the buildings are so ornate and huge its hard to comprehend how they were ever built and the cost at the time would have been phenomenal. No wonder a few lost their heads.

We tried to do our best for Tourism WA to promote our state and country with the result that im not expecting too many French people holidaying here, though we do get the odd backpacker. Time and time again when we did have some little conversations with the locals all they could say about Australia was that we had plate sized spiders and kangaroos that wanted to punch you, not to mention the snakes and crocodiles. No matter how many times we denied that this was the case or they would only come across these animals if they were in the wrong place. They disputed all of this as they had seen in on youtube. Anyhow, besides you are too far away they would say!

**Jill Cross**





### **What's on In Dardanup**

- 5 August – Mens Welfare Group – 2pm at the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms  
 5 August – Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm  
 6 August – provide feedback to the Shire of Dardanup re landscaping of Ferguson Rd, see news this edition  
 13 August – Mahjong at the Shire office, free, 1.30- 4.00pm  
 13 August – Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival meeting, 7.30pm @ Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms  
 14 August – Shire of Dardanup Sustainable Living Workshop, Dardanup Hall, 10-11.30am. Topic: Balancing Biodiversity and Productivity in your Garden. Bookings essential ph: 9724000 or on the website [dardanup.wa.gov.au/events](http://dardanup.wa.gov.au/events)  
 15 August - Dardanup Heritage Collective AGM meeting, 1pm at the Dardanup Shire Office  
 19 August - Dardanup Seniors meeting  
 19 August - Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm  
 19 August Mens Welfare Group – 2pm at Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms  
 24 August - Boyanup Farmers Market, 8am  
 27 August- Mahjong at the Shire office, free, 1.30- 4.00pm  
 31 August – Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festivals Thrift Shop Fashion Show and High Tea, 12.30pm, see poster this edition  
 2 September - Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm  
 3 September- Ferguson Hall Community Dinner, see poster this edition

If you have an event to add  
 please email  
[jill.cross@bigpond.com](mailto:jill.cross@bigpond.com)

### **Dardanup and Localities Clubs and Meetings**

- Dardanup Community Choir- every Monday, 7pm @ the Ferguson Hall, Helen 0422 095 870  
 Edible Gardening Group – 2nd Saturday of the month at 9.30am, ph Ros 0408949160 or Leanne 0418781121  
 Cardinal Junior Football Club - winter  
 Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival Committee – 7.30pm, 2nd Wednesday of every month, Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms  
 Dardanup Cricket Club( Junior and Senior) - summer  
 Dardanup Horse and Pony Club – meets 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at the DEC  
 Dardanup Lions Club – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 6:30pm at the Dardanup Tavern  
 Dardanup Environmental Action Group – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 5.30pm, contact Sec for further details 0418 281 201  
 Dardanup Playgroup – every Wednesday of school term, 9.30am – 11.30am @ Dardanup Community Centre  
 Dardanup Shire meetings – every fortnight on Wednesday @ Eaton. ph 97240000  
 Dardanup Senior Citizens – 3rd Tues of the month @ the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms, 9.30am – 11.30am.  
 Dardanup Social Dance – 1st Saturday of each month, Dardanup Hall, 8pm, \$12 ea, supper to share.  
 Dardanup Sporting and Community Clubs – 7.00pm, bimonthly at the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms  
 Dardanup Tennis Club – every Saturday from 9.00am, beginners welcome  
 Eaton/ Dardanup Football Club(Soccer) – winter season  
 Ferguson Hall Committee– 1st Fri of the month @ 5pm, prior to the sundowner. For Hall booking Robyn Jones, 0468 576 950,  
 email [bse7@bigpond.com](mailto:bse7@bigpond.com)
- Ferguson Hall Sundowners – 1st Friday of the month @ 6.00pm, BYO drinks and nibbles.  
 Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre Volunteers- 1st Tuesday of each month @ the VC Centre, 9.30am.  
 Ferguson Valley Marketing- 3rd Thursday of each month, 5.30pm at the Thomas Little Hall  
 Henty Riding Club – meets Wednesdays and other days at the Dardanup Equestrian Centre  
 Joshua/ Crooked Brook Sundowner – 2nd Friday of the month, 7.00pm at the Fireshed.  
 Knits and Knots Group – Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 1.00 -3.00pm @ the Dardanup Shire office  
 St Aidans Church, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 9am, all denominations welcome.  
 SW Rose Soc – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, 10.00am, @ Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms  
 SW Veteran Car Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms.  
 Wellington Mill Sundowners – last Friday of the month, 6 – 8pm @ the Fireshed  
 Wellington Mills Community Association- *for upcoming meeting details please contact Sarah, [sarahhennigankeen@gmail.com](mailto:sarahhennigankeen@gmail.com)*  
 Dardanup Central Bushfire Brigade training @ the Fire Station, Recreation Rd, 5.30pm every Wednesday  
 Ferguson Valley Mountain Bike Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, Mark, 0408 331 447  
 Mens Welfare Group – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 2-5pm at the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms, Ray 0417 932 898  
 Mahjong - Every fortnight on Wednesdays 1.30pm to 3.30pm at the Dardanup Shire office in Dardanup Revelly 0408 833 761

**Vale; Ron Farr, sincere sympathy to Jonathon, Jo and families**

Ron loved Dardanup and likewise we very much appreciated his friendship and the work he put into the community. Ron loved a coffee and a chat whether whilst walking over to catch up with Terry at the Post Office or folding the Dardanup Times with Christine Commons, his good mate and later on Lance Hurst, when Chris left Dardanup, always sharing stories. Everyone who met Ron liked him. He was always very respectful and considerate of others. Ron and Chris took on folding the Dardanup Times without assistance during COVID making sure everyone had their local news which was very important at this time. Ron was a Bull and Barrel Festival Committee member since 2010 and Treasurer from 2016 - 2022 and I'm sure he would have still been in that position if his health hadn't failed. His bookkeeping was impeccable. I know as before he left Dardanup he gave me 12 Woollies shopping bags full of his Treasurers files! Ron never made a fuss doing any community work - he just got on with the task at hand whilst the rest of us ran around like headless chooks. Ron and others involved with the Dardanup feed it forward were awarded an Australia Day Dardanup Lions/ Dardanup Residents Assoc Community Citizenship Award for services to the community a couple of years ago. We will miss our much valued and loved community member. **Jill Cross**

Photo of Ron thanks to Gwen Wells taken at the 2024 Dardanup Seniors Xmas Lunch

**Vale; Rosemary and Don Baskott, sincere sympathy to Jenny, Ian, Martin, Sue and families**

Dad was proud of his farm career of 83 years. Born in England, he started out breeding chickens and turkeys, then purchased a run down farm which he developed into a successful dairy farm. The family moved to WA in 1965, purchasing a farm at Thomason's Brook near Donnybrook. Mum was a good cook and sewing fanatic until her macular degeneration worsened. They bought Dardanup Park from Frank Venn in 1972 and owned the farm for 50 years, dairying until eventually switching to beef production. They moved into their house in Dardanup in 2016, and both kept busy in their retirement. Mum loved her pot plants, and had great success propagating cuttings. Dad enjoyed riding his mobility scooter around Dardanup and was always up for a conversation along the way. He loved his chickens and his vegetable garden.

They both had a lifelong affection for horses and dogs, owning many over the years. TV shows involving dogs were compulsive viewing! They clocked up 70 years of marriage in April and achieved their desire to live in Dardanup until the end of their days. Dad was 98 and Mum was 90 when they passed within a short time of each other.

**Jenny Trigwell, Rosemary and Don's daughter**

Photo of Rosemary and Don taken by Gwen Wells

**LOST & FOUND**

Lost & Found festival is back again this year running from 15<sup>th</sup> October to sundown on the 19<sup>th</sup> October! Starting with a "warm up" event of fire juggling on Wednesday the official opening event in on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

The festival is a vibrant journey of art, wine, food, and immersive experiences and focuses on wine, food, art, music and the beautiful outdoors. It's a celebration of WA's incredible Southwest.

Now in its fifth year, Lost & Found Festival has become one of the premier events in the region and after four successful years under external management, FVM have taken the step to bring the Festival back in house & formed our own L&F Festival Committee.

This new festival delivery team is comprised of five dedicated FVM Board members and one experienced local event manager, who brings a wealth of expertise.

Championing local talent, food, wine and experiences Lost & Found continues to showcase the unique and diverse experiences throughout Ferguson Valley, Wellington Forest and the Bunbury region.

Again this year we have the sponsorship of Tourism WA, Shire of Dardanup, City of Bunbury, and Shire of Harvey plus our more recent sponsors and supporters Post Newspapers, Piacentini, Hire in Style and Bunbury Farmers Markets.



The official opening night on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October will be held at Hope Valley Farm. The invitation and ticketed event will be attended by state and local dignitaries and showcase local artists in residence, a quartet from South West Philharmonic Orchestra and range of locally grown and produced food and wines.

Tickets to all the festival events went on sale on July 22 so don't be slow. We know from previous years some events will sell out very quickly so avoid disappointment and jump to [www.lostandfoundfestival.com.au](http://www.lostandfoundfestival.com.au) and secure your tickets on line.

**So please put into your diary the festival dates from 15<sup>th</sup> October -19<sup>th</sup> October, we look forward to seeing you with a distinctive pink program in hand as you explore what this fabulous region has to offer.**

**Sue Williams**



The Dardanup Times thanks our generous sponsors



Ferguson Valley  
*Community*  
**DINNER**  
FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

6pm start  
(eat at 6:30pm) at the  
**Ferguson Hall**

**BRING**  
Winter Dish  
or  
Dessert  
**TO SHARE**

**FREE**  
**EVENT**

**BYO**  
**DRINKS**

**OPEN FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY**

**Thrift Shop Fashion Show & High Tea**

Doors Open  
12:30pm  
Dardanup  
Hall  
Sunday 31st  
August

\$30 entry includes delicious high tea  
and glass of bubbles on arrival

Raffle and Lucky Door Prize

Fashions supplied by  
'Humble Jumble Thrift  
Shop'

To reserve a table/seats and purchase tickets phone  
Jill on 0418 281 201 or email: [jill.cross@bigpond.com](mailto:jill.cross@bigpond.com)

Raising funds for the...

Solaris Cancer Care

**DARDANUP BULL & BARREL FESTIVAL**

Humble Jumble  
THRIFT SHOP  
NOW OPEN  
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**DARDANUP CRICKET CLUB**

WHO'S READY FOR THE  
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**DARDANUP CRICKET CLUB ARE  
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All senior enquiries to [dardanup.cricketclub@outlook.com](mailto:dardanup.cricketclub@outlook.com)  
or send us a message on Facebook

**SEASON STARTS OCTOBER 2025, SO GET IN  
EARLY TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE PART OF  
THE TEAM!**

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