

Shire News

Shire of Dardanup Newsletter

Online survey: Burekup skatepark and pump track

The Shire of Dardanup is inviting local youth to share their ideas of what a future skatepark and pump track in Burekup could look like, via an online survey open from 1-26 September.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said input from young people will not only help guide the design but will also strengthen applications for funding by showing strong community support.

"We know that young people are at the heart of this project.

"By asking for their feedback, we can make sure the design reflects their needs, is safe, and encourages everyone to get active and stay connected.

"Community engagement is something we take seriously, and this is a great opportunity for local youth to help shape the future of their town.

"The survey results will not only guide the design but will also strengthen the Shire's ability to lobby for and secure grant funding from external sources to help deliver the project."



Youth Advisory Group member Chelsey North, is encouraging local youth to share their ideas of what a future skatepark and pump track in Burekup could look like.

Youth Advisory Group (YAG) member Chelsey North (19), who has been involved with the group since the age of 14, is encouraging her peers to take part.

"People often talk about wanting change – they'll have a vent, complain or chat about it with friends," Chelsey said. But if you want real change, you have to take that next step. Whether it's something small or something big, taking action can go a long way."

Chelsey said the survey is quick, easy and designed to make sure young voices are heard.

"It's mostly multiple-choice questions, so it only takes a few minutes," she said.

"By filling it in, you're giving the Shire a much better idea of what young people need and want. Most importantly, it gives our voices a chance to be heard."

Options being explored for the Burekup Community and Sporting Precinct include:

- A new skatepark.
- A pump track.
- Upgraded tennis courts.
- A multi-sport clubroom with universal access.

Cr Gardiner said with Burekup's growing young population and strong local sporting culture, these improvements aim to create inclusive spaces where everyone can come together, stay active, and feel proud of their community.

We want to hear from you! Your ideas will help design a space that's fun, safe, and suited to your needs. To complete the survey, scan the QR code below:

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Tronox Spring Out Festival supporting Telethon

The Shire's Tronox Spring Out Festival is back on Sunday, 19 October, bringing family fun to the Eaton Foreshore from 9.30am-12.30pm.

Now in its 10th year, the festival is one of the region's most anticipated community events and coincides with Telethon WA's fundraising weekend.

The Shire is proud to support this incredible cause that helps sick children and their families. A secure donation webpage has been set up with all contributions going directly to Telethon.



On the day, festival-goers can also enjoy the Dunk Tank challenge, with all proceeds raised going straight to Telethon.

"We're proud that our festival can help support such a worthy cause, while still providing a free, family-focused event for our community."



Tronox Site Director Ian Rennie and Shire of Dardanup President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner (right) with everyone's favourite Blue Heeler, Bluey, who is a special guest at the Tronox Spring Out Festival on Sunday, 19 October 2025.

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Shire of Dardanup

Updates:

Step into spring with a friend at the ERC

From 1-30 September current members can invite a friend to join the Eaton Recreation Centre gym. When your friend signs up and stays for at least one month, you both receive four weeks of free membership. A simple way to stay motivated, save money, and share your fitness journey. Sign up via the ERC website at erc.dardanup.wa.gov.au

Discover your family history through library workshops

Eaton Library's Young Adults Book Club is held on the third Thursday of every month and welcomes anyone aged 18-30. It's a relaxed, friendly space to connect with others, discover new reads, and enjoy good company. Come along on Thursday, 16 October from 5.30-7pm. Snacks, stim toys, and a safe, laid-back vibe are all provided!

Have you checked out the Mick Bennet Make-It-Space?

Our targeted and limited place workshops offer more in-depth learning and skill building. Workshops may be delivered in series format to maximise learning outcomes, we encourage participants to attend all in the series to get the most benefit. Our workshops are hugely popular so be sure to follow us on Eventbrite and secure your tickets asap. Visit the Shire of Dardanup website for more information.

Join the school holiday fun at Eaton Library

The Eaton Community Library is offering a fun, free program of activities these October school holidays, with something for all ages to enjoy. From treasure hunts and story time to LEGO, Mario Kart and rocket making, it's the perfect way to keep kids entertained and engaged. Families are encouraged to join in, with some sessions requiring bookings - secure your spot!

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Planting the future: students help restore ECC wetlands

The Shire of Dardanup teamed up with Eaton Community College (ECC) students and rangers from Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation to restore and protect a valuable wetland on the College grounds.

The activity also formed part of ECC's NAIDOC Week celebrations, recognising and honouring the deep connection Aboriginal people have with land and water.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said the event was a great way to connect young people with their local environment.

"Wetlands play a vital role in supporting wildlife, cleaning our water and reducing the impact of floods," Cr Gardiner said.

"Planting days like this help students learn, contribute and take pride in protecting these special places."

He said wetlands are important in keeping our environment healthy.



Eaton Community College Students (front) Wynta Atheron and Marcelline Whickham with Shire of Dardanup Coordinator of Environment and Waste Eliza-Jane Jacques (front) and ECC Science Teacher Sophie Keates and Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation Ranger Coordinator Jonnie Cobby.

They:

- Provide habitat for threatened plants and animals, including fish, frogs, tortoises, marron and nearly 20% of Australia's bird species.
- Filter pollutants, helping oxygenate and clean our water.

- Reduce the severity of floods and provide refuge for wildlife during drought.

The ECC wetland is a conservation category wetland of the Swan Coastal Plain, making rehabilitation efforts important for the future.

NextGen Skills: free program during school holidays

Young people aged 14-25 across the Shire of Dardanup and the Greater Bunbury region are invited to take part in the NextGen Skills Program – an exciting, free initiative being held during the September/October school holidays.

Running from Tuesday, 30 Sept to Friday, 3 Oct 2025, the program offers a week of hands-on workshops and activities designed to teach essential real-world skills not often taught in schools, including cooking, trades, tech, culture, wellbeing and road safety.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said the Shire was proud to support this unique youth-focused program, a first for the Shire.

"We are really excited to be hosting the Next Gen Skills Program in our Shire for the very first time," Cr Gardiner said.

"This program is all about equipping young people with the tools they need to thrive after school – whether that's preparing healthy meals, exploring trades or even assembling a computer."

A highlight of the program will be the Cooking and Culture workshop.

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Keipa Boodja Chairperson Annette Garlett said the session would be a special opportunity for young people to connect with Noongar culture through food.

"We'll be preparing a variety of Noongar dishes, including kangaroo stew and damper, and encouraging participants to get involved in both the cooking and tasting," Ms Garlett said.

"It's about giving our young people a taster of traditional Noongar cuisine and showing how important food is in bringing people together."

Delivered with the support of key partners including Eaton Community College, Wink Lindsay (Aquila Food Forest), Keipa Boodja Aboriginal Corporation, Blue Leaf, Skill Hire, RAC, Beam Scooters, RYDE Program, IT Blackspot, and the Shire's Place and Community Engagement staff, the program is proudly supported by the Department of Communities.

"It's also a fantastic opportunity to connect with local mentors, businesses and community groups who are here to support their journey into adulthood."

"Instead of just filling time during the holidays, Next Gen Skills gives young people the chance to learn practical life skills in a fun, engaging and social environment," Cr Gardiner said.

Bookings are now open. For the program and to register, scan the above QR code.



Shire of Dardanup Place and Community Engagement Officer Will Tuck (left) with (from left) Keipa Boodja Director and Secretary Lisa Collard, Director and Chair Annette Garlett and Director Murray Collard at Watsons Reserve.



FREE EVENT | ALL AGES

- Amusements
- Games
- Activities
- Markets
- Entertainment
- Food
- Music
- and more!

SUNDAY
19
OCTOBER
2025

9:30AM - 12:30PM
EATON FORESHORE

For more information scan the QR code or visit our website, www.dardanup.wa.gov.au



Meeting dates for 2025

The Shire's 2025 Ordinary Council Meetings are held on the following Wednesdays at 5pm:

25 September (Thursday)
29 October
19 November
17 December

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays:

Bush Fire Advisory Committee, Wednesdays, 7pm: 8 October.

Audit and Risk Committee, Wednesdays, 2pm: 10 December and 10 September.

Members of the public are invited to attend monthly meetings, which are also recorded and published on the Shire website.

André Schönfeldt, CEO

Meeting Your 12 Councillor Candidates for the 2025 Election:

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