

OCTOBER 2025

Free

# THE DARDANUP TIMES

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

## FERGUSON VALLEY OPEN GARDEN TRAIL

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Ferguson Valley Open Gardens PTO



### FERGUSON VALLEY OPEN GARDEN TRAIL VENUES:

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## Acknowledgement for Long Serving Members



The Bull and Barrel Festival Committee recently acknowledged the service of 3 inaugural members who are no longer on the Committee by presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation. Bill Stone coordinated the Greater Bunbury Model Collectors display in the Lesser Hall for many years and Sharyn and Rebecca Dauti organised the much loved goat races.



## Shire of Dardanup News

### Boost to Local Emergency Services With Additional Manager

The Shire of Dardanup has welcomed the announcement from the State Government that our community will benefit from one of the newly allocated Community Emergency Services Managers (CESM) positions in Western Australia. Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said this outcome follows strong and persistent lobbying by Shire staff and councillors, who have long advocated for more on-the-ground support to help keep our community safe. He said the CESM program is a vital part of how local governments prepare for and respond to emergencies – working closely with our volunteer bushfire brigades, community groups and agencies to make sure we are ready before, during and after an incident. “This is fantastic news for our community and volunteers, the additional CESM will make a real difference locally,” Cr Gardiner said. “We all know how important it is to be prepared, especially as we head into bushfire season. “Our CESM will play such a critical role in supporting our volunteers, coordinating resources and ensuring our Shire is ready to respond. “Council and staff have worked hard to push for more resources in this space, so to see this outcome is really rewarding. “At the end of the day, it’s about making sure our community is as safe and supported as possible.”

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)  
South West Regional Superintendent Matt Folini said

the CESM announcement reflects a strong commitment to the South West. “The CESM role is an acknowledgment from the State Government of the need for further investment into the South West’s emergency management sector “The position will only strengthen the relationships between the Shire and DFES and will allow us to improve and expand the suite of Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (PPRR) activities for its communities.” Dardanup Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Chris Hynes also welcomed the announcement, saying it would provide vital support for local brigades and the wider community. “This is a very positive step for our Shire,” he said. “Our volunteers already do an incredible job, and this additional role will provide them with extra backing and resources, while also strengthening

collaboration between brigades, DFES and Shire staff.”



L to r Ricky Southgate from DFES, Chris Hynes Shire of Dardanup CFCO and Ashwin Nair Shire of Dardanup Director of Sustainable Development  
Look Forward to the Appointment of a Community Emergency Services Manager



## Dardanup Senior Citizens Inc

At our Meeting held today the 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at Wells Recreation Hall we had 17 in attendance & 6 apologies.

Discussions held about our Christmas Dinner at the Dardanup Heritage Park & our carpooling trip to Stirling Cottage & Harvey Cheese on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.

We celebrated Mary McClare’s 80<sup>th</sup> & Alan Rowson’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthdays with morning tea & birthday cakes. Unfortunately, Alan was absent due to illness, but his cake was home delivered so he didn’t miss out!

8 of our members attended Chair Yoga today. The Shire of Dardanup sponsors the Chair Yoga, free & open to all residents. Future dates 14/10, 28/10, 11/11, 25/11 plus other dates through to 30/6/26. Held at Wells Hall. 1.00 to 2 pm.

New Members most welcome. Application forms available, \$15 Membership fee.

Next Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> October.

“Take Time to Smell the Roses”

Revely Gardiner 0408833761

## Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival News

### Puppet Making Workshops

If you would like to be involved in this exciting project then come along to the Dardanup Hall from Saturday 4 October – Friday 10 October, 9.00am – 6.00pm. Join us any day and stay for as long as you like. BYO food and drinks. No cost. Ages 10 and above. Under 12s will need parental assistance. This year we are making small birds and insects and guess what after you have been in the parade you get to take your puppet home! Working with W.A. puppetry artist Karen Hethey. Enquires to Jill .0418281201, jill.cross@bigpond.com



### Volunteers Needed

The Festival is a big job to organise for our volunteer Festival Committee and we need your help on Thurs 9 Oct and Fri 10 Oct 9.00am—5.00pm. Morning and afternoon tea and lunch provided, meet at the Clubrooms on Wells Recreation Park; help for a couple of hours, high school students welcome. Remember many hands make light work! Sunday—cleanup!

### Festival Parking

There is no organised parking this year so please be kind to our Festival visitors and allow them to park on your verge.

### Road Closures

Locals are reminded that Ferguson Rd between Hayward and Little St and Recreation Rd between Ferguson Rd and Phillips Rd will be closed to general traffic from 7.00am – 9.30pm on the day of the Festival.

### Car Raffle

The Festival Committee is raffling off a Kia Seltos with proceeds going to fund Festival hire equipment. This is an important fundraiser for the Festival Committee so please support this. 1000 tickets only and \$100 per ticket. Prize valued at \$33470.00 drive away plus floor mats and \$500 fuel voucher. To purchase a ticket please go to the Festivals facebook page and follow the links.

### Billy Cart Races

\$500 to win so get cracking on making a billy cart, see poster this edition for details

**Follow the Festivals Facebook Page for all the latest News**

## Annual Branch Out Event Challenges Local Bush Fire Brigades

The event held at Wells Recreation Park focused on brigade continuation training, reinforcing essential basic skills in a fun and engaging environment. Members demonstrated hose and pump operations, as well as radio communication techniques, while the primary aim remained fostering teamwork and creating opportunities for members to build new friendships.

This event would not have been possible without our sponsors Wespine, St Aidans, Willow Bridge Estate and The Shire of Dardanup.

All 8 brigades attended, a total of 64 members participated in 7 team challenges. With Waterloo BFB the overall winner and Ferguson runner up.

**Kaitlin Southgate**

**Neil Dyer FCO West Dardanup  
Focusing On His Radio Skills  
During the Branch Out Team  
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## Wespine News

### Leadership Ready: Wespine Graduates Complete 2025 Leadership Development Program

Wespine is proud to announce that 13 emerging leaders have graduated from the 2025 Leadership Development Program. Since February, participants took part in a series of interactive workshops, group discussions and projects aimed at building practical leadership skills.

The program concluded with each graduate delivering a mini project to the Wespine Leadership Team. Graduate Eloisa Rayco said, "I really enjoyed the Leadership Development Program, as I learned more about myself through my DiSC profile, made new friends, and gained valuable tools to communicate effectively and improve myself. These tools can be applied not just at work, but in my personal life as well."

Through the LDP, Wespine continues to invest in its people and build a strong foundation for future leadership.

Wespine's General Manager of Operations, John Sanderson, congratulates Eloisa Rayco as she receives her Leadership Development Program certificate



## Ferguson Hall News

Dust off your boots and grab your hats for the **Mucky Duck Bush Band** on Sat 18<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets are \$25 (accompanied children under 15 \$15) with tickets/details via Lost & Found Festival: <https://lostandfoundfestival.com.au/events/muckey-duck-bush-band-at-ferguson-hall/> See poster this edition.

Also save the date for a Quiz night on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Details and Tickets to be advised.

About thirty people braved the wind and rain to attend the Long Table Community Dinner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September - next Community Dinner Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec for a BBQ with the Family Christmas Gathering on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Come on and join the friendly Community Choir on Mondays 7-9 pm or Yoga with Gyani during school term 5.45 – 7 pm, Wednesdays.

Community Sundowners on the first Friday of the month as per Ferguson Road Boards.

Hall Hire queries to Robyn on [bse7@bigpond.com](mailto:bse7@bigpond.com)



## Dardanup Lions News

The Lions will again this year, by arrangement with the Bull & Barrel festivals committee be serving the thirsts of patrons of the festival. A range of soft and mixer drink cans as well as single serve cans/bottles of several brands of beer are available for purchase. Water sold in bottles or free on tap cups of water are available to those wanting restraint from sugar and alcohol.

The members making endeavours to benefit the community have met with enthusiasm from the non-Lion citizens in many ventures. Naming some: Improvements to the War Memorial, Lions eye health children's free screening programme, mental health outreach through support for the efforts of Peter Milton and as well the Regional Mens Health team program.

In the near region we have helped the Solaris Cancer support group in Bunbury with shed refurbishment, We donated \$1000 toward Camp Quality. They take kids facing cancer for a camping break

We are scoping out whether the parties can be got together for a schools/shire based pocket forest demonstration plot. Maybe in some combination with a blue tree in recognition of vulnerable peoples life travails. **Phil Ottrey**

## Boyanup Farmers Market

YANMAH FRESH – A family-run business from Manjimup has been part of our market community for over 20 years, supplying locals with spray-free, seasonal produce straight from their farm.

From crisp cauliflower and broccoli to earthy beetroot, silverbeet, kale, and creamy pumpkins, Yanmah Fresh is known for offering a colourful variety of vegetables grown with care. Their range also includes potatoes, onions, carrots, tomatoes, and zucchini and other seasonal vegetables.

As more people turn to local produce and low-impact farming, businesses like Yanmah Fresh are not only feeding families — they're shaping the future of food in the South West.

Wishing Dardanup Bull and Barrel a wonderful Day, and you will probably see a few of our stall holders there too.

Our next market day is 26th October, 2025

**Tanya Williams Market Manager**

## The Bearded Bloke

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## Did you know the Ferguson Valley Visitors Centre is not only for Visitors?

The Centre is powered by Locals and promotes Locals. Come and visit us for also locally sourced gifts and cards for that special occasion and Ill bet you learn something you didn't know about the place you love to live! We are at 5 Ferguson Road right in Dardanup and again open 9.30 – 3.30 pm daily including the Bull & Barrel and Lost & Found Festivals coming up. Thank you to the Shire for our refurbished windows for Spring.

Some lucky Dads received a lolly filled stubby holder complete with whimsical logo on Father's Day, thanks to all who participated in the Production Team!

Congratulations to Kaye who won the Father's Day Raffle and gratefully donated by our Artisan of the Month Bec Eades (pictured) from West Dardanup of the 'Mabel and Beryl' curated collection celebrating modern Australian Living. Pop in to the Centre to see a selection of their stylish artisan crafted treasures on display and get your next gift.

Bec also has curated bundles of gifts online for weddings, new babies or even that furry friend in your life!

Save the date for the **Ferguson Valley Open Garden weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> October** – the Centre will be open for getting your potted cuttings, garden sleeves and gloves or a cheeky garden gnome. Enjoy the roses, grab a coffee and indulge yourself with a delicious home baked treat from our Sweet Treats stall.



We would love to see more Volunteers – even if only for a half day a month or during winter. Visitors on holiday love to see a Local so ring us on 97 281 551 – we will put you in touch with Gae.

**Robyn Jones**

## DARDANUP CRICKET CLUB - 2025/2026 SEASON

CRICKET SEASON IS HERE! Dardanup Cricket Club is so excited to be back into it with our Juniors & Seniors taking to the field again. We have been working super hard in the off season to get this club ready for the 2025/2026 season & we would love for you to come and be apart of it all! We've been doing some extra work to get the canteen ready for use again at the clubrooms. We will be holding a sausage sizzle at the Bull & Barrell festival, so make sure you come & support us. We will also have the nets open & running with some activities for the kids to have a go at the festival, so be sure to get your kids down for that! Seniors start their season 18<sup>th</sup> October & Juniors on 25<sup>th</sup> October, make sure you come down and support us. Make sure you follow us on Facebook or Instagram to see dinner nights & events, all community members welcome.

Now, lets introduce our new Club President, Sean Child. Sean is excited and ready to take on the club to help re-build a family club in our community.

### 2025/2026 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT – Sean Child

V. PRESIDENT – Jake Walker

SECRETARY – Chris Ruland

TREASURER – Matt Busher

JUNIOR COORD. – Leila Cooper

### WE STILL NEED YOU

Have you wanted to play cricket? Wanted to show your kids you can still play? Played years ago & think you might still have it? Do you need something for you, be around a club environment, a few drinks on a Saturday night? Well cricket at Dardanup is what you need!! Give Sean a call or come along Thursday at 5.30pm, the club has gear for you to use, give it a go!

JUNIORS TO – We need a few more players Yr 4, 5 or 6 to fill a third team, please call Leila Cooper, 0418 247 780

lets hear from our president

I'm really proud to take on the role of President for the Dardanup Cricket Club this season. Our club is built on mateship, community spirit and the love of the game and I am excited to help carry that forward. A big thank you to all the players, families & volunteers who make this club what it is. I'm looking forward to a great season together, both on & off the field. I can't wait to see you down the nets! Cheers Sean



Dardanup Cricket Club

dardanup.cricketclub@outlook.com



Senior Enquiries to Sean Child 0422 295 053  
Blast Cricket & Junior Cricket enquiries to Leila Cooper 0418 247 780

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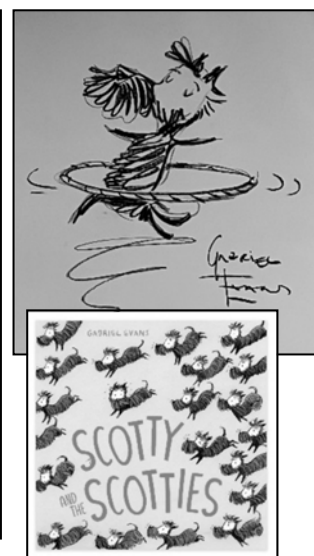
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## BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES

Our students enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters for Book Week. Our library was a sky of hot air balloons. Visiting Author, Gabriel Evans, spoke to our Year 1-3 students. Our students enjoyed listening to him and were in awe of his artistic talents. Their artwork guided by his step-by-step approach was amazing. Gabriel lives in Bridgetown and is an accomplished Author and Illustrator. He left us with a signed artwork of his favourite Scotty—a lovable pet dog character in his books.



Pre-primary to Year 6 students loved dressing up as their favourite book character. Parents are to be congratulated on their creativity and support of another fabulous BOOK WEEK Parade.





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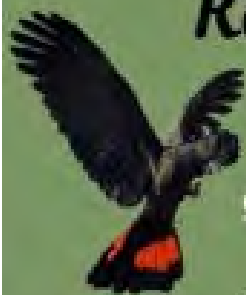


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9721 3788



ben.small.mp@aph.gov.au



Ben4Forrest

Authorised by Ben Small MP, Liberal, Units 7 & 8 Grand Cinema Complex, Cnr Victoria and Clifton Streets, Bunbury WA 6230.

## 540 Mechanical

*Based in Dardanup, 540 Mechanical are forging their way as the broader Bunbury region's trusted agricultural machinery specialists. Founded in 2020 by Tom Foster, this family-run enterprise has blossomed from a one-man mobile workshop into a full-service operation with multiple service vehicles and a purpose-built workshop. Their growth is fuelled by a relentless "can-do attitude" and a focus on personalised, quality outcomes for lifestyle property owners, farmers, and civil clients alike.*

*At its core, 540 Mechanical specialise in the sales, service, and repair of agricultural and civil machinery.*



*Their workshop sees every make and model of tractor and attachments; for minor services through to rebuilds. The team brings transparency, skill, and trust to every job. The sales arm offers the dependable Bobcat agricultural range from zero-turn lawnmowers, to compact tractors through to telehandlers. The McCormick range offer agile tractors to manoeuvre orchards and vineyards to large tractors for demanding, open-field work.*



*The strength of 540 Mechanical isn't just in machinery – it's in its people. The whole team have rural roots and a deep connection to the region. In the evolving landscape of regional agriculture and rural industries, 540 Mechanical stands out as a dependable, skilled and community-focussed force – keeping equipment running and rural livelihoods thriving.*



( Editor's note. What follows is the first instalment of Rob and Diana's circumnavigation of Australia back in 2000 - 2004 on the yacht *Norlee*, a Sparkman and Stephens 39)

## INTRODUCTION

Sailing has been a preoccupation for both Diana and Rob since they were first married way back in 1992. Sunday afternoons were spent pounding the rattling boards of yacht club jetties looking for the right boat; something not too small and not too big. The Court 750 at South of Perth Yacht Club (SPYC) looked tidy, the broker was young and enthusiastic, and before long, they were making plans to sail her back to their river mooring on the Swan right out front of The East Fremantle Yacht Club (EFYC). Now this is a sail of some 5 or 6 miles along a mostly benign river with the only challenge being the odd sand bank. They approached it as you would a rounding of Cape Horn. There were sleepless nights, anxious mornings and stomachs thick with butterflies.

They pushed off from SPYC and into 5 knots of fierce wind with seas noisily lapping inches above the waterline. Hours later, they tied up to the mooring outside EFYC and toasted their first successful voyage. They had made it. What relief. Little did they know that this tiny sail was to be the first of many voyages on yachts and in particular their circumnavigation of Australia. If someone had come on board after they pulled up at EFYC and said that one day you two will sail a yacht across to Sydney and in fact all the way around Australia they'd have told him, "ya dreamin". Dreams, however, have a habit of coming true.

And so to Tell Tales.

This is a story of two people who set out to do something huge and who manage to pull it off. It's also been told by two people. You will notice a change in font style as the voices of Diana and Rob take over the story. Diana's story is told in 'normal' format type like this and Rob's version of the truth appears in italics. With the two voices comes two different personalities and so two different perspectives on the whole experience. It's these dual perspectives that provides a certain tension.

throughout the book and which opens a private door into the realities of this often idealised "cruising life". There were tears along the way and some of those for joy. There were friendships made that will last a lifetime and there would be genuine fear as lightening boomed 50 metres from the boat half way across the Great Australian Bight. But there would also be discovery of the most exquisite kind.

So, sit back and enjoy the journey as Rob, Diana and Motley the ship's cat set out to sail Australia in their trusty *Norlee*.

## "CHAPTER 1

### BEGINNINGS

The dream had probably started for me (Diana) as a child when I consumed books such as Robinson Crusoe, The Swiss Family Robinson, and writers such as Thor Heyerdal and later Kay Cottee. I thought that perhaps the dream would take the form of building my own house, growing my own food, having a few chooks and being self-sufficient, but my Dad had also planted the sailing seed. As a twelve year old girl, he taught me how to handle our old clinker built cadet dinghy, *Scylla*. The three of us, Mum, Dad and I would tack, gybe and weave our way around the Swan River during Perth's long summer days. Mum, a determined, yet nervous sailor never forgave me for gybing the boat suddenly. She claimed she fell off the boat, but I suspect she jumped and felt a lot safer in the green waters of the Swan.

Sailing took a back seat in my life for many years, years, which were filled with study, children, a failed marriage and a new career and relationship. An opportunity presented for a crewing position on *Dunrobin*, a 22ft yacht sailing with an all-female crew from Royal Perth Yacht Club. The flickering pilot

light of adventure had been ignited. A country posting and a two-year sojourn in Japan where I married Rob seemed to satisfy the need for adventure and again placed sailing in the background. On our return to Perth in September 1992, it became obvious there was a gap that needed filling. We started doing jetty crawls, an affliction that affects most boating people. Jetty crawling involves walking up and down these long wooden walkways in a desperate search for that yacht you saw in the broker's window. Meanwhile, you breathe in the salty air, the wind gently ruffles your hair and your eyes seem drawn to the jagged horizon just over the sea wall. It's the stuff of dreams. I am sure bored landlubbers, after having done their Sunday jetty crawl, can actually taste the fresh crayfish and the chilled chardonnay and feel the warm glow from the sunset seen on anchor in some remote island far away. To jetty crawl is to drift past boats that quietly sing their siren song of seduction; "why don't you step aboard, untie my lines and I will take you wherever your heart desires"...

Before Rob knew what had hit him, we were the proud owners of *Chardonnay*, a 24ft Court. Six years of racing around the river taught both of us much about sailing, but there was more to be made of this life than sailing circles around the Swan River. Then *Cruising Helmsman* came into our life. It's a magazine that relates stories of people who have thrown off their mooring lines and gone cruising. The *Cruising Helmsman* is often the source of much jetty crawling. Our fate was sealed and the pilot light of a dream ignited into the flame of an idea.

We were going to go cruising!

*Harmony*, a Viking 30, was the next stepping-stone in our journey. We thought we could transform this river racer with its spongy deck, lightweight rigging, and limited stowage into a cruising boat. It only took us eighteen months to realise our folly. *Harmony* would only ever be suitable for day sails and the occasional longer journey to Rottnest Island, a popular destination some 13 nautical miles off Fremantle or maybe even *Geographe Bay*, a sailing haven a hundred miles south of Fremantle.

I am a great believer in fate and resigned to the fact that I am just a leaf in the wind, going where the wind dictates. *Norlee* came into our life on a Saturday morning at a family function. During an inevitable lull in the conversation, Rob piped up and said, "I've found the boat of our dreams" "Funny about that, so have I!" I quickly added. Separately, we had perused the paper and found the same advertisement. "NORLEE S&S 39 THE BEST IN AUSTRALIA 130 000 ono.

We were a bit daunted by the price, but what the hell; it couldn't hurt to have a look. It was time for a jetty crawl. In no time we were down on C Jetty at Fremantle Sailing Club hoping for a meeting with the owner. We found *Norlee* and we were in awe of her elegant lines, her size and 'I mean business' demeanour. We were in love. However, the owner failed to show, so, despite a sneak peak though the hatch (it was unlocked...) we reluctantly walked away. It really wasn't meant to be and anyway, she was way beyond our means. As we dejectedly walked back along the jetty, I spotted a figure hurrying towards us. It had to be...yes it was the owner. Maybe this was meant to be. He didn't have to sell the boat to us, we sold it for him. Down below *Norlee* did not disappoint, with her polished teak, beautiful galley and fresh upholstery. The owner had spent \$70,000 refurbishing her only to have a change of heart and a different goal in mind. Our only problem now was how we were going to afford this beautiful vessel. To every problem, there is a solution and the solution was to move on board, rent out our house and continue to work for two years until we had paid her off. Within a week of signing over the papers, we were moving on board and starting a new phase of our life.

Watch out for further installments in future additions of District Times.



Our local Jarrah forest is a riot of colour as we enter 'Kambarang' the Noongar season from October to November. After a few wild stormy weeks promises of warmer days are very welcome!

October is one of my busiest times in the garden. After making planting plans last month the soil temperatures are finally warm enough for me to start planting out summer crops in the garden. It is really important to keep an eye on soil moisture levels, especially if you have garlic and onions growing. If they get too wet they may rot in the ground before you get a chance to harvest them.

As I harvest the remains of my winter crops, my spring / summer succession planting begins. It is a great tool for keeping my garden producing and it works for any sized garden. As I harvest something, I plant another crop in its place, this means I have something to harvest year round. If you love your summer salads a great tip to remember is *Leafy greens can be planted with everything* and are great used as 'space fillers' and act as living mulch. Radish are delicious roasted, pickled or simply sliced and popped in a salad, making them a versatile quick growing crop for this time of the year. Does anyone else have an overwhelming urge to plant everything now!? For most crops if you stagger sowing seeds or seedlings you will have plants maturing at different times, less gluts and lower food waste. It is time to start thinking about Christmas - *yes, I did just say that ...* don't shoot the messenger just yet :) Here is my thought process - Do you want to brave the craziness of the shops during the silly season or would you prefer to just pop out and pick what you need from your own garden?

Garden smarter, It is as easy as 1, 2, 3... **Plant once per season.** Crops that take a long time to grow are generally only planted once and will mature with an extended crop for the entire summer season. These include Tomatoes, Eggplant, Chilli, Capsicum, Pumpkin, Sunflower, Luffa, Melons, Squash, Pumpkins & Silverbeet. **Plant Twice per season.** Crops that have a shorter time to maturity and harvest length can be planted twice and this will extend your harvest through into the autumn months. These crops include Zucchini, Corn, Dwarf Beans, Climbing Beans, Snow peas, Cucumbers, Gherkins, Beetroot and Carrots. **Plant every 2-3 weeks.** Quicker growing crops such as Lettuce, Asian greens, Cress, Rocket and Coriander can be planted every 3 weeks to allow for a continuous harvest. They prefer a sheltered, cool, shaded position or will 'bolt' in the heat.

Before you go crazy and plant everything.... *I know it is very tempting...* Have a think about how much time, space and water you have available. In our climate, water is one of the most limiting factors we have for growing in our backyards and community garden spaces. Make the most of your garden by growing crops that cost the most, are hardest to find, keep for the shortest time in the fridge and/or the ones you eat the most! I also like to choose varieties that

give me good yields for the amount of space or time they take to grow.

Why not try some new varieties - for example, Queensland Blue pumpkins are very popular but they take 110 days to mature and only give you 1 or 2 pumpkins per vine! My top 5 choices for yeild and better use of space are Golden Nugget, Potimarron, Buttercup, Kakai and Trombonchino. All grow smaller (~1.5kg or less), are delicious and have good storage fruit that suit smaller families / spaces, added bonus is you don't need a chainsaw to cut them open! Golden nugget give you 12-15 small fruit on a compact plant and is the quickest, meaning you can start harvesting from 75 days. Kakai is a good hull-less variety to grow for pepitas and while Trombonchino grows on a 6m+ long vine, it trellises really well and gives you both zucchini and pumpkins on the same vine. If you want to save your own seeds and keep them 'true to type' then you will need to grow several types from different species so they don't cross pollinate. Pumpkins belong to the Curcubita family and there are 3 different species we generally grow - C. maxima, C. moschata and C. pepo. The species should be written on the seed packet. My favourites to grow are Golden Nugget, Butternut and Trombonchino.

What can we plant in October? *Just about everything!*

Leaf crops - Amaranth, Lettuce, Mustard, Silverbeet, Fennel, Celery, Watercress, Purslane, Rocket, French Cress, Sorrel, NZ spinach, Chicory, Cabbage, Chinese cabbage Root & onion crops - Beetroot, Radish, Kohlrabi, carrot, Parsnip, Scorzonera, Turnip, Celeriac, Daikon, Potato, Leeks, Spring Onions, Yacon, Yam/Oca, Jerusalem Artichoke Legume crops - Dwarf Beans, Climbing Beans, Snow peas, Asparagus pea Curcubit & Solanum family - Cucumber, Luffa, Sweetcorn, Gourd, Melons, Pumpkin, Squash, Marrow, Zucchini, Tomato, Capsicum, Chilli, Tomatillo, Eggplant, Okra, Rosella, Sunflower. Herbs - Globe Artichoke, Asparagus, Basil, Buckwheat, Coriander, Strawberry plants, Dill, Borage, Nasturtium, Oregano, Sage, Cape Gooseberry, Mint, Tarragon, Lemon Balm, Edible Chrysanthemum, Parsley, Rhubarb, Rosemary and Summer savoury

Happy Gardening!



The last Sustainable Living Workshop for this year is on Thursday 16/10/25 at the Dardanup Hall. *\*Note this is on the third Thursday due to the Bull and Barrel.*

Topic: **Herbs and Spices.** They add a zing to your salsa and depth to your curry. Expensive to buy, yet so easy to grow. Learn what to plant when and take home plenty of tips to get growing your own herbs and spice garden. Bookings essential ph: **9724000** or on the website [dardanup.wa.gov.au/events](http://dardanup.wa.gov.au/events)

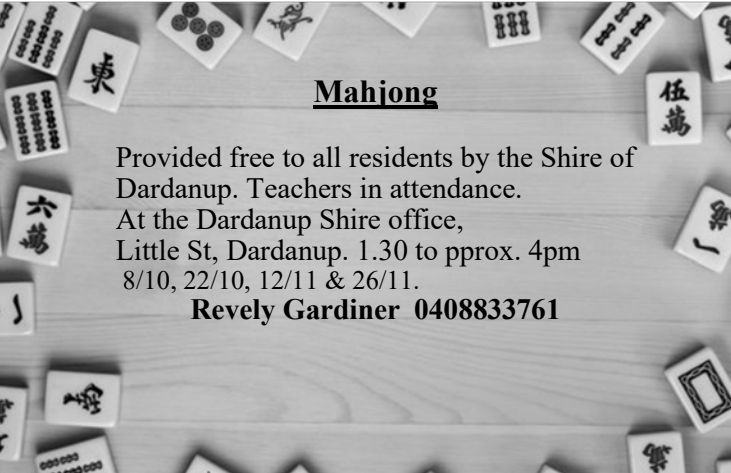


## Dardanup Community Choir

**7pm Mondays at the  
Ferguson Hall**

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  
8/10, 22/10, 12/11 & 26/11.

Revely Gardiner 0408833761





### Is Cotton Bush invading your property?

Across our area, a quiet war is being waged against Cotton Bush (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*)—an aggressive invader that chokes paddocks,

waterways, and native habitats. For many landholders, the battle has been long and frustrating. Cotton Bush returns, and spreads, season after season, with no simple or one-off “fix”. But with persistence, hard work, and consistent follow-up over multiple control seasons, progress is being made. The war isn't over—but battles are being won.

Our local Leschenault Biosecurity Group (LBG), which provides support to private landholders, has been actively supporting many landholders in their efforts to reclaim their land from this weed. LBG is helping landholders to turn the tide providing support including site visits for tailored control advice, equipment loans, referrals to contractors and long-term Cotton Bush management planning. Properties once overrun with Cotton Bush are showing signs of recovery with native grasses and productive pasture reclaiming lost ground. And with each season of action, the victories continue to grow.

### WHY IT MATTERS:

**Invasive:** Narrow Leaf Cotton Bush, a declared pest weed in WA, spreads rapidly, can form dense thickets that outcompete native vegetation and pasture species, reducing biodiversity and altering natural ecosystems. Infestations can spread across paddocks and into reserves, riparian zones, and roadside corridors, making coordinated management essential.

**Rapidly Spreads:** This plant reproduces by seed. Suckers may also be produced off lateral roots that are close to the soil surface. Its small, fluffy seeds are contained within distinctive pods that burst open upon maturity. Each pod can hold over 300 seeds, which are dispersed by wind, livestock, machinery and by floating on water.

**Toxic to Livestock:** Cotton Bush is poisonous to livestock and humans, and has caused deaths in cattle, sheep and poultry. It is seldom consumed fresh by livestock, but may be dangerous if it contaminates hay, fodder or chaff. Severe gastroenteritis is the main symptom of poisoning by this species.

**Reduces Land Productivity:** Infestations of cotton bush outcompete valuable pasture species, forming dense thickets and making large areas of pasture inaccessible to livestock, reducing overall grazing capacity and increasing feed costs for livestock.

**Difficult to Control:** Once Narrow Leaf Cotton Bush takes hold, it can be very hard and costly to remove. The plant produces a seed bank that can stay alive in the soil for several years, meaning new plants are likely to keep popping up over several seasons, even after spraying or removal. This means follow-up work is essential over several years to fully get on top of an infestation.

**Economic Impact:** Cotton Bush can become an expensive problem if left unmanaged with landholders faced with reduced land use and high weed control and land rehabilitation costs, including lowering the carrying capacity of paddocks, increasing feed costs for livestock.

### What happens when someone reports Cotton Bush sightings to the LBG?

Cotton Bush is unique in the South West for being the only declared weed with an active compliance pathway, backed by legislation, and enforced by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). According to the LBG, reports of Cotton Bush to their group surged during the second quarter of the year, although the weed has remained widespread across the region throughout 2024 and into 2025.

When a report is made to LBG, it kicks off a structured process—each step designed to assess, address, and support control of the infestation. Often, reports come from community members frustrated by infestations on neighbouring properties. These reports are crucial, as they help LBG target areas that may otherwise go unnoticed and limit further seed dispersal. All reports are treated confidentially to protect the identity of the informant. The intent is not about blame, but rather to alert the landholder to the need for action and as applicable support the landholder in undertaking control actions. From there, the LBG Weeds Project Officer conducts a site visit to verify the presence of Cotton Bush and assess the scale of the infestation. Determining land ownership can be complex, particularly when clear information isn't available. Once the landholder has been identified, LBG makes initial contact and provides information about their responsibilities and available support. In most cases, this results in positive action—landholders either begin their own control efforts or seek help from LBG via equipment loans or referrals to contractors.

From there, the LBG conducts a site visit to verify the presence of Cotton Bush and assess the scale of the infestation. Determining land ownership can be complex, particularly when clear information isn't available. Once the landholder has been identified, LBG makes initial contact and provides information about the landholder's responsibilities and available support. In most cases, this results in positive action—landholders either begin their own control efforts or seek help from LBG via equipment loans or referrals to contractors. Only in rare cases, where compliance isn't achieved despite written warnings and offers of support, does DPIRD step in to issue a Pest Infringement Notice (PIN), which can result in a fine. Fortunately, most landholders choose to cooperate well before the process escalates to this level.

**Controlling Cotton Bush isn't just a legal requirement—it's a shared responsibility that protects the productivity, biodiversity, and beauty of our landscapes.** Every report, every season of follow-up control, and every landholder who takes action helps in our collective battle against this invasive declared pest! Together we can better protect our beautiful and unique landscapes.



*Across our operational area, landholders—supported by local biosecurity group—are making significant progress in the fight against Cotton Bush through strategic planning, hard work, and persistent effort to be sustained over multiple control seasons*



**Leschenault**  
BIOSECURITY GROUP INC.

**Annual General Meeting**

Thursday, 23 October 2025  
5:30 - 6:30 pm  
Boyanup Tavern  
104 Bridge St, Boyanup

RSVP Requested by 20th Oct.  
Nibbles will be provided; registration is requested for catering purposes.

**Join us for our AGM!**  
Community members are invited to come along to for an overview of our operations over the 2024-2025 Financial Year, discussions about ongoing programs and future plans, and to meet our dedicated board members and operational team.



**To Register:**  
Please scan this QR code or contact us directly:  
e: info@lbginc.org.au  
p: 0477 049 967  
www.lbginc.org.au



### Living Springs Advert

Living Springs is a family owned and operated spring water supplier who have been operating in Dardanup since 1991. Luke and Mitch are now, the second generation of the family, taking over the business in 2024.

We are the largest locally owned and operated spring water business in the South West and service a large majority of businesses, industry and a growing number of residential customers across the South West in the Peel, Geographe, Blackwood and Capes regions

Our team is passionate about friendly and professional customer service with a personal approach.

Contact us today for more information on spring water delivery & water dispensers for your home or business.

[sales@livingsprings.com.au](mailto:sales@livingsprings.com.au)

9728 0333

0408 931 068

Please see their add on front page

### What's on In Dardanup

7 October – Mens Welfare Group – 2pm at the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms

8 October – Mahjong at the Shire office, free, 1.30- 4.00pm

11 October – Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival

14 October – Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm

16-19 October – Lost and Found Festival

16 October - The last Sustainable Living Workshop for this year @ the Dardanup Hall. Topic: Herbs and Spices. Bookings essential ph: 9724000 or on the website [dardanup.wa.gov.au/events](http://dardanup.wa.gov.au/events)

17 October- Dardanup Heritage Collective AGM meeting, 1.30pm at the Dardanup Shire Office

21 October- Dardanup Seniors meeting

21 October - Mens Welfare Group – 2pm at Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms

22 October- Mahjong at the Shire office, free, 1.30- 4.00pm

23 October – Leschenault Biosecurity Group AGM 5.30-6.30 Boyanup Tavern, see advert this edition

25/26 October - Ferguson Valley Open Gardens

26 October - Boyanup Farmers Market, 8am

28 October - Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm

30 November – firebreaks and fire prevention work on properties to be completed

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

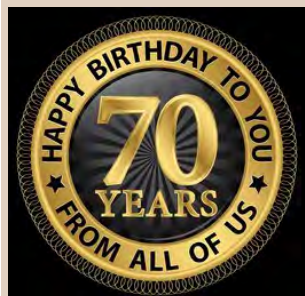
Mens Welfare Group – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 2-5pm at the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms, Ray 0417 932 898

Mahjong - Every fortnight on Wednesdays 1.30pm to 3.30pm at the Dardanup Shire office in Dardanup Revelly 0408 833 761





## Congratulations to



Tom Cross,  
celebrating his  
70<sup>th</sup> birthday

Alannah Gardiner  
celebrating her 21<sup>st</sup>



Mel Gardiner  
celebrating her  
50<sup>th</sup> birthday



Martin Pardoe celebrating his  
80<sup>th</sup> birthday



## Vale:

Peter Panizza, longtime Dardanup Resident, sincere sympathy to his family and friends

Debbie Green, sincere sympathy to Reg and family

## Display 2025 Dardanup Heritage Collective Clothing Of The Past



The Dardanup Heritage Collective is thrilled to be holding a display of wedding dresses down the generations along with photos from those weddings. In conjunction with the Ferguson Valley Visitors' Centre's Christmas Fete, this event will be held at the Thomas Little Hall on Sunday 16 November.

### ON DISPLAY:

- \* Wedding clothes down the generations and photos from the actual weddings. Contact us on the email below if you something you would like to display on the day.
- \* Former school sport uniforms and vintage clothing held by members of the committee.
- \* A continuous slide show of photos showing the story of Dardanup

### FREE ENTRY:

**Where:** Thomas Little Hall

**When:** Sunday 16 November

**Time:** 9.00 am – 2.00 pm

MORE STORIES: [DARDANUPHERITAGECOLLECTIVE.ORG.AU](http://DARDANUPHERITAGECOLLECTIVE.ORG.AU)  
Email: [dardanupheritagecollective@gmail.com](mailto:dardanupheritagecollective@gmail.com)  
PO BOX 204, Dardanup WA 6236



### BILLY CART COMPETITION

Get creative and build  
a Billy Cart to race at  
the festival

**\$500  
IN PRIZES**

Email [info@bullandbarrel.net.au](mailto:info@bullandbarrel.net.au) to enter

Proudly organised by the Keley family

Starts at 4pm on the oval

Teams of 2, not motorised.

Category 1—Adult/Child

Category 2 - Child/Child over 12 yrs

Category 3 - Child/Child 12yrs & under

### PRIZES:

Category 3 - 1st \$50, 2nd \$25

Category 2 - 1st \$100, 2nd \$50

Category 1 - 1st \$100, 2nd \$50

Best Billy Cart - \$75

Best Team Spirit/Costume - \$50





The Dardanup Times thanks our generous sponsors



**TRONOX**

**Spring Out**  
CHILDREN'S WEEK WA

**SUNDAY, 19 OCTOBER**  
**9.30AM - 12.30PM**  
**EATON FORESHORE**

**FREE EVENT | ALL AGES**

For more information  
scan the QR code or  
visit our website!

Shire of Dardanup

**Spring in the Garden**  
**FREE FAMILY EVENT**  
kids activities & the fairy

**SABRINA HAHN**  
guest speaker

**GARDEN WORKSHOPS**  
with Wink Lindsay from  
Aquila Food Forest

**SEEDLING & PLANT SALE**  
**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**  
**MARKET STALLS**  
**PRESERVES & BAKED GOODS**  
**SUSTAINABLE CRAFTS**  
**COOKING DEMOS**  
**BASKET WEAVING**  
**SPINNING**  
**DRAGONFLY COFFEE VAN**  
**RAFFLE & More!**  
No dogs please

**Live Music**  
**9AM - 1PM**  
**SATURDAY**  
**18TH OCTOBER**

**WORMS FOR SALE**

**CASH ONLY**

**YOGA**

**SPONSORED BY**  
**AQWEST**

Thommo's Community Garden  
152 Robertson Drive, Glen Iris

**MUCKY DUCK BUSH BAND**

COMING TO THE  
**FERGUSON HALL**

**SATURDAY**  
**18 OCT**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**LOST & FOUND**

**PARKS AND WILDLIFE**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
NEARER TO NATURE

**SOUTH WEST** SPRING HOLIDAYS \$10/5

**Nature Journaling @ Wellington Discovery Forest**  
Ages: 8+  
When: Tuesday 7 October 10 - 11.30 am  
Where: Wellington Discovery Forest

**What Bird is That? @ Big Swamp Bunbury**  
Ages: Family - all ages  
When: Wednesday 8 October 9.30 - 11.30 am  
Where: Big Swamp, Bunbury

**Deadly and Dangerous with SW Reptile Rescues and Education @ Wellington Discovery Forest**  
Ages: 6-14 yrs  
When: Thursday 9 October 9.30 am - 12 noon  
Where: Wellington Discovery Forest

**Wildflower Walk with Forest Explorers @ Wellington Discovery Forest**  
Ages: Family (3+)  
When: Friday 10 October 9.30 - 11.30 am  
Where: Wellington Discovery Forest

For more information and to book online:  
**Hurry! Limited spots!**

**SOUTH WEST ROSE SOCIETY INC.**

**Save the Date**

**Annual Spring Rose Show**

**Saturday 1st Nov 12pm - 5pm**  
**Sunday 2nd Nov 9am - 3pm**  
**Eaton Sports Club**  
Glen Huon Reserve, Council Drive, EATON

**PLANT STALL, RAFFLE, TEA & COFFEE CASH ONLY \$5.00 ENTRY**