

Shire News

Shire of Dardanup Newsletter



Members of the new Shire of Dardanup Council are (back, from left) Cr Mark Hutchinson and Cr Tony Jenour, (middle) Cr Ruby Trevathan, Cr Annette Webster, Cr Krystal Lauretsch, Cr Brad Farrant and Cr Luke Davies, (front) CEO André Schönfeldt and Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner and Deputy Shire President Cr Stacey Gillespie.

New Council team to lead Shire

The Shire of Dardanup's newly elected councillors were officially sworn in on Wednesday, 22 October 2025 – marking the first ceremony of its kind to take place in the Council Chambers of the Library, Administration and Community building.

Six councillors have been elected including Tyrrell Gardiner, Luke Davies, Krystal Lauretsch, Annette Webster and Ruby Trevathan for four-year terms, and Brad Farrant for a two-year term. They join continuing councillors Mark Hutchinson, Stacey Gillespie and Tony Jenour, who were not up for election this term.

The ceremony required each elected councillor to make a formal declaration, committing to serve the community with integrity, transparency, and dedication.

Former Shire President and Honorary Freeman of the Shire, Mick Bennett, addressed the newly elected Council.



Mr Bennett shared insights from his 28 years of service in local government, offering words of encouragement and wisdom about leadership, teamwork, and keeping the community at the heart of decision-making.

Cr Gardiner was re-elected as Shire President and Cr Stacey Gillespie was elected as Deputy Shire President for the next two years.

As a fourth-generation councillor and following in the footsteps of his father John, who served as Shire President from 2011-2013, Cr Gardiner said it was a huge honour to continue in the leadership role after the past two years.

"I want to thank Mick for his time as Shire President. I've really enjoyed the past two years in the role, and it's been made easier because of the way the organisation was left," he said.

"This Shire really does punch above its weight, and it has a very bright future. To be the captain of that team is a privilege – and a humbling one. I'm thankful for the privilege of leading this team."

Newly elected Deputy Shire President Cr Stacey Gillespie thanked her fellow councillors for their support and said she was looking forward to continuing the Shire's strong record of collaboration.

"I've been on Council for six years and I'm ready to take the next step. There are certainly big shoes to fill, our former Deputy President Ellen did a fabulous job," Cr Gillespie said.

"I take this role very seriously and see it as an opportunity not only to support the Shire President, but also to support all Councillors, especially our new members and hear the needs of our community."

Updates:

Pool safety inspections

Our team is conducting swimming pool safety barrier inspections from November 2025 through to March 2026, covering around 300 properties as part of a required four-year inspection program. These inspections help ensure all pools and spas meet safety requirements to keep our community safe – especially young children. If you'd like to check your pool or spa barrier in advance, contact us on (08) 9724 0000 today!

Planet Matters: library

Explore, learn and take action with Planet Matters, Eaton Library's monthly environmental program. The next session will be held on Thursday, 13 November from 4-5pm. Each session dives into a different aspect of our local natural world. Sessions combine interactive activities, practical insights and community connections. All ages welcome. Book via the Shire's website or drop in.

New pedestrian crossings

New pedestrian crossings are being built in Eaton to improve safety and connectivity for the community, two on Eaton Drive and one on Recreation Drive. Works begin Monday, 3 November, and will take around one week to complete. A Traffic Management Plan will be in place to keep everyone safe. Please take care when travelling through the area and follow all signage and directions.

Free after school art club

Looking for a fun way to unwind after school? Come along to our free Art Club, a weekly session featuring exciting projects, and let your imagination shine. Held Tuesdays during school term from 3.30-4.30pm at the Eaton Community Library. No booking needed but we ask that parents stay to supervise. Join from the start of term to enjoy the full project experience!

Boost to local emergency services with new manager

Shire of Dardanup
Eaton Recreation Centre

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

We're always looking for ways to make your experience at Eaton Recreation Centre even better – and who better to help us than you?

Take a few minutes to complete our 2025 ERC Member Survey and you'll go in the draw to win one of four 12-week free memberships and ERC member prize packs!



MOVING MORE
LIVING MORE

The Shire welcomed the State Government's announcement of a new Community Emergency Services Manager, an outcome of persistent advocacy by Shire staff and councillors.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said the role will strengthen local emergency preparedness.

"This is fantastic news for our community and volunteers. The CESM will play a critical role in keeping us safe."

DFES South West Superintendent Matt Folini said the appointment reflects a strong commitment to the region.

"It's a recognition of the need for more investment in emergency management across the South West."

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Chris Hynes said the role will support volunteers and improve coordination.



The Shire gains new CESM role. Pictured: Ricky Southgate (DFES), Chris Hynes (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer), Ashwin Nair (Director Development Services).

"Our brigades do an incredible job, this position gives them extra backing and strengthens collaboration."

Read the full story on our website or by scanning the QR code.

SCAN ME! 

What's on your verge?

Please check before you plant, pave or place

SCAN ME! 

Shire of Dardanup

Celebrate Seniors Week with us

Seniors Week will be celebrated this November with a vibrant four-day program across Eaton, Dardanup and Burekup.

The events recognise the valuable contributions of seniors in our community and offer opportunities to connect, learn and enjoy time together.

Community members aged 55 and over are invited to take part in a range of engaging activities – from informative sessions to creative workshops and social gatherings.

- Event highlights:
- **Getting the most from your Seniors Card – Mon 10 Nov, Eaton Library.** Learn how to access discounts and benefits through your Seniors Card.
 - **Secure tomorrow, manage today – Tue 11 Nov, Dardanup Wells Recreation Pavilion.** A wellness workshop focusing on arthritis, osteoporosis and estate planning.
 - **Chats and cheers – Wed 12 Nov, Bethanie Fields.** Enjoy morning tea while learning communication techniques that help you think and feel better.
 - **Paint and sip at Burekup – Wed 12 Nov, Burekup Hall.** Relax with the Imperfect Painter and Burekup CWA for a creative morning of painting and tea.



- **Cards and cake – Fri 14 Nov, Eaton Library.** Wrap up the week with games, cake and great company.

Explore the full program on the Shire's website or scan the below QR code, and join us in celebrating the wisdom, experience and spirit of our seniors.

SCAN ME! 

Meeting dates for 2025

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

19 November,
17 December

Audit and Risk Committee, Wednesday, 2pm: 10 December.

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

André Schönfeldt, CEO

eRATES

Receive your rates via email

SCAN ME! 

You'll need your Assessment Number (from your Rates Notice)

Authors Talk

FOLLOW THE SALT

6pm - 7.30pm
Thursday, 13 November
Eaton Library
Bookings essential

