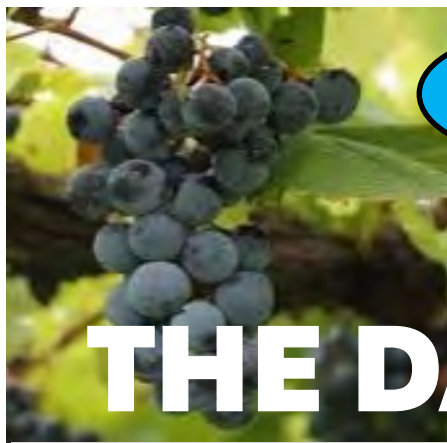




Free

THE DARDANUP TIMES

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

3 Huge Events Held Over the Month of October Brought The Crowds to Town!



Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival enjoyed perfect weather which saw our biggest crowd yet according to all the Festival Committee. The event went off without a hitch and all the attractions were popular. A huge crowd stayed for the puppet parade and burning of the "Bull"

Wespine Fire Sculpture created by Jeff Woodman and John Cartwright

Raff and Remi won Best Billy Cart @ the Bull and Barrel



Lost and Found Festival
Bingo and Bonfires @
Green Door

Lost and Found Festival coordinated by Ferguson Valley Marketing saw 25 events organised across the Shires of Dardanup and Harvey and the City of Bunbury, 12 sold out events, with more than 70% of tickets sold at the remaining events and 83% of tickets sold to Festival goers from outside the 3 Council areas.



Willow Bridge Barrel Hall
Long Table Dinner @ Lost
and Found

Ferguson Valley Open Gardens saw between 180 and 400 garden lovers visit each of the 9 gardens open over the weekend. And they came from all over the place. Many of the garden owners raised funds for local community groups, Dardanup Primary School and charities so a very successful weekend.



Jane Field and Brad Reeds garden Avalon was part of Ferguson Valley Open Gardens

Ebony and James Hawksley and their children Ruby and Mabel opened their garden Lonicera as part of FVOG



Wespine News

Another Fantastic Year at the Dardanup Bull & Barrel Festival

A big congratulations to Jill Cross and the entire Dardanup Bull & Barrel Festival team on delivering another outstanding event this year.

We were especially thrilled to see Wespine timber featured and transformed into a spectacular fire sculpture – amazing craftsmanship by Jeff Woodman and John Cartwright once again. Thank you to everyone who visited the Wespine stall – our team thoroughly enjoyed connecting with you all.

We're proud to be part of such a terrific community event.



Fire Sculpture Creators John Cartwright on left, Jeff Woodman and Ellie Mc Donagh, Chief Financial Officer, Wespine, in front of the 2025 Fire Sculpture. Photo credit; Yousuf Shameel, South Western Times

Boyanup Farmers Market



Congratulations to the Committee and Volunteers of the Dardanup Bull and Barrel another fantastic Festival.

CAPEL RIVER AVOCADOS - In 2023, the Spark family's journey into avocado farming began with a twist of fate. A picturesque farm along the Capel River in Southwest WA was seeking new caretakers — and they answered the call. What started as a chance encounter has blossomed into Capel River Avocados, a 150-acre haven of biodiversity and regenerative farming.

Nestled on rolling hills and surrounded by nature, the farm grows four varieties of avocados, including the beloved Hass, now reaching peak perfection. These rich, creamy fruits ripen 6–8 days after harvest, are spray-free, easy to peel, and bursting with flavour.

At Capel River Avocados, farming is more than a business — it's a way of life rooted in sustainability, tranquillity, and connection with the land.

If you want to learn more, Jess is your go-to for all things avocado — from growing tips to delicious recipes. Be sure to follow Capel River Avocados on social media for regular updates, seasonal info, and tasty ideas. Or better yet, come say hi to Jess at their November market for a friendly chat and even more avo inspiration!

Our next market day is 23rd November, 2025 and December is a week earlier just in time for Christmas on 21st December, 2025.

Shire of Dardanup News

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. His message was warmly received by councillors and guests in attendance.

Following the swearing in ceremony, 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.

"The fact that people were willing to stand up and put their hand up for Council is the first step – and it's very exciting," Cr Gardiner said.

"I also 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.

"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. "I'm honoured to accept this position and am really looking forward to the term ahead."

Cr Gardiner added that the new group brings a great mix of experience, fresh ideas, and a shared commitment to supporting the continued growth and liveability of the Dardanup district. He also thanked outgoing councillors for their service and contribution, acknowledging their role in helping build a strong foundation for the future.



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.

Dardanup and Districts Residents Assoc AGM

Tuesday 18 November, 7.30pm at the Wells Rec Park Clubrooms.

If you would like to assist organising the Dardanup Anzac Day Service, Australia Day Breakfast and generally liaise with the Shire over matters of interest to the community then feel free to attend. Enquires to Jill, 0418281201



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Bushfire Action Tips and Other Related News

Thanks to Rob Webster from Ferguson Bushfire Brigade for sharing the start of monthly bushfire safe action tips that have been prepared by Murray Brooker from Denmark. Thanks guys and know this will assist our readers to be bushfire prepared.



Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

Would you like to become a Volunteer Fire Fighter? Then why not join one of the Shire of Dardanup's 8 Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades and learn how to prevent fires and be trained in fire fighting! Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades protect the community, as well as attend fires all around the state and at times across the country. Male and female volunteers are very welcome. No experience is necessary as all training is provided. There are many dimensions to being a volunteer bush fire fighter and members are encouraged to choose the type of activities that best suit their capabilities and interest.

Volunteers are trained in the following areas:

- personal and team safety and survival
- fire suppression methods
- vehicle driving – on and off road
- communications
- first aid

leadership and emergency management procedures.

If you don't feel you are up to fighting fires, you may want to consider joining a brigade's support team. The support team's main functions are to help our fire fighters and cadets with technical and welfare support during an incident, or during training and

fundraising.

Some of our brigades also have a strong cadet program and welcomes boys and girls from the age of 11 to 16 years to join. Being a cadet provides an opportunity for young people to learn about fire safety, fire equipment and develop important life skills through team exercises and leadership challenges. Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience. It is an opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and provide assistance in protecting your community. Respecting others, working together as a team and acting with honesty and integrity are the values embraced by members.

If you are interested in being a volunteer bush fire fighter or joining the cadet program please contact your local brigade or Emergency Management Officer on 9724 0347 or email brigade@dardanup.wa.gov.au.

Prepare your emergency kit- what should it contain?

- It doesn't matter if you are staying or leaving, having an emergency kit can save precious time during an emergency.
- Everyone in the household should know where the emergency kit is kept.
- Your kit should include essential supplies such as an AM/FM battery powered radio, spare batteries, torch, first aid kit, woollen blanket, protective clothing, emergency contact numbers, important documents, water and non-perishable food.
- On the day, don't forget to add essentials such as your wallet/purse, car and house keys, medications and medical equipment, phone and charger, and pet supplies.

Prohibited Burning

All burning in the open is prohibited from 15 December until 14 March each year (subject to change).

Restricted Burning

Burning permits are required for all burning in the open from 2 November to 14 December each year, and 15 March to 26 April each year (subject to change).

Dates for Prohibited and Restricted Burning Times may change due to seasonal fire or weather conditions. All changes will be published on the Shires website and by public notice and local newspaper.

Firebreaks & Fire Prevention Measures

Fire prevention measures must be completed and all properties (including residential, commercial, industrial and vacant land) cleared of fire hazards **on or before 30 November each year** to reduce the risk of fires during the bushfire season. Properties must remain free of hazard until the **close of the Restricted Burning Period**.

The Bearded Bloke

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W: www.thebeardedbloke.com.au

Dardanup Environmental Action Group AGM

Tuesday 9 December, 5.30pm

@ Wells Rec Park Clubrooms

Come and hear what we have been up to this year.

Drinks and Nibbles provided

Enquires Jill 0418 281 201

Dardanup Senior Citizens Inc News

Our short Meeting & excursion to Harvey on the 21st October was cancelled, due to our members wishing to attend the funeral of Judy Gardiner.

12 Members attended, to acknowledge her as a friend & fellow member.

Our next meeting will be held on the 18th November. Last available time to pay for Christmas dinner, also will be a bring & buy day.

Our Christmas dinner will be on the 9th December at the Dardanup Heritage Park.

Healthy Living with Arthritis Seminar provided by the Shire of Dardanup, will be held on the 11th November at 10.30am. We will be observing Remembrance Day at 11am.

Chair Yoga- Held at Wells Recreation Hall 1-2pm.11/11, 25/11, 3/3, 17/3, 31/3, 21/4, 5/5, 2/6 & 30/6. Provided free to all residents by the Shire of Dardanup.

Membership application forms available. Visitors most welcome. Come & join us!

Revely Gardiner 0408833761

Local Historian Shares Stories

Just alerting you to a special series to which the Bunbury Oral History Group, Chris and I contributed, to celebrate the Centenary of the Bunbury War Memorial in 2024.

The series of 61 episodes ran on Bunbury Community Radio between August and November 11th 2024.

There is a special re-run of 12 episode highlights of up to 3 minutes each being aired on Bunbury Community Radio 103.7FM between 3rd-11th November 2025, at 04.30, 9.30 and 15.30 respectively.

Please tune in to hear the presentations and I invite your comments on conclusion.

A promotion will also detail a Podcast series beginning on 11th November.

I believe this work may well provide a template for all local communities to promote their war service men and women into the future.

For details on how to access these broadcasts please go to www.bunburycommunityradio.com/listen/.

Jeff PEIRCE

www.anzacheroes.com.au

www.greatwarstories1914-1918.com.

New Book- "Great War Stories 1914-1919 Light Horsemen & Cameleers of the South West and Great Southern" by Jeffrey A PEIRCE & Chris HANDLEY. (Targeted for publication October 2026)

Ferguson Hall News

The Mucky Duck Bush Band was a fantastic night on Sat 18th October with sold out tickets on the Lost & Found website.

The Quiz Night planned for early November has been postponed to February next year.

Sundowners continue on the first Friday of the month with the exception of January. Bring your drinks and nibbles for Novembers Sundowner and Decembers will be a BBQ – bring a salad or vege dish or sweet to share.

The Ferguson Family Christmas Gathering will be on Sunday evening on 21st December. Look for details coming up to Christmas – Father Christmas will be in attendance!

Robyn Jones

Country Music Club News

16th November, 2025

Hugh Kilpatrick Hall, Boyanup
Perth Band FBI 1 - 4.30 pm
everyone welcome

21st December, 2025

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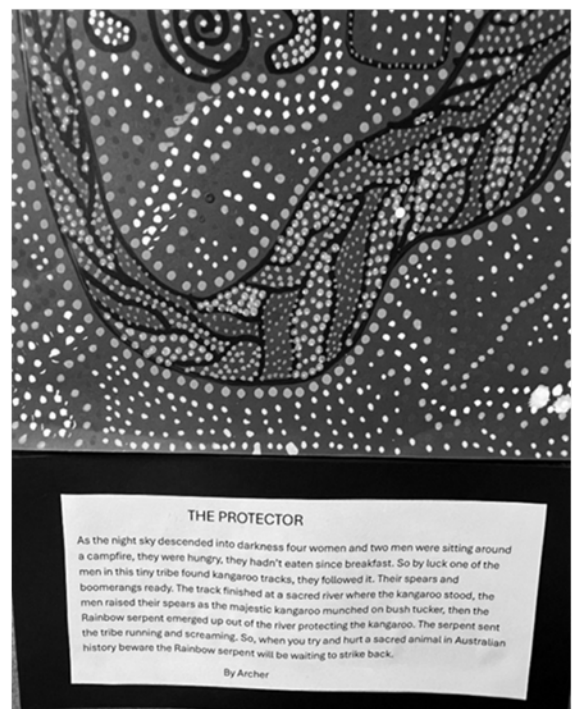
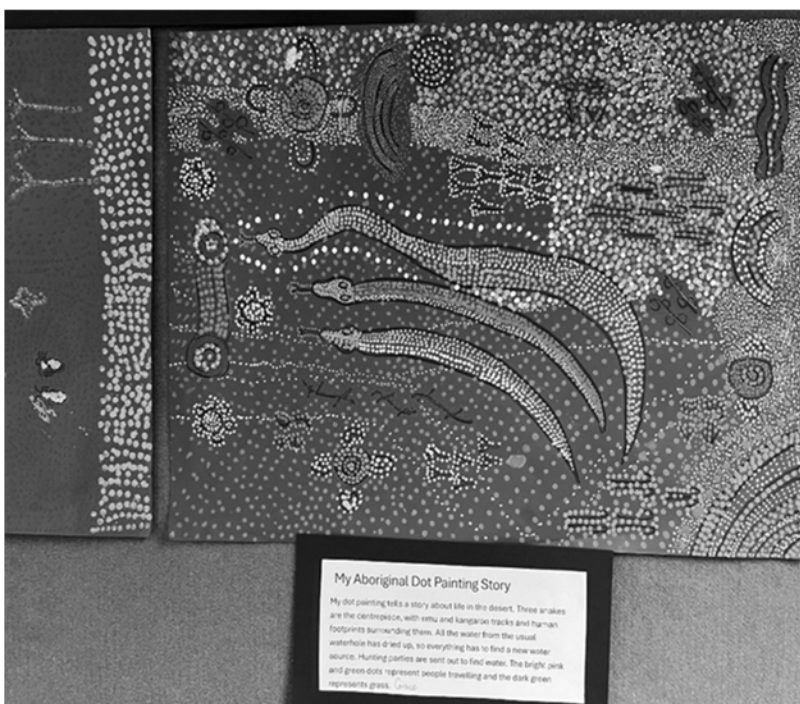
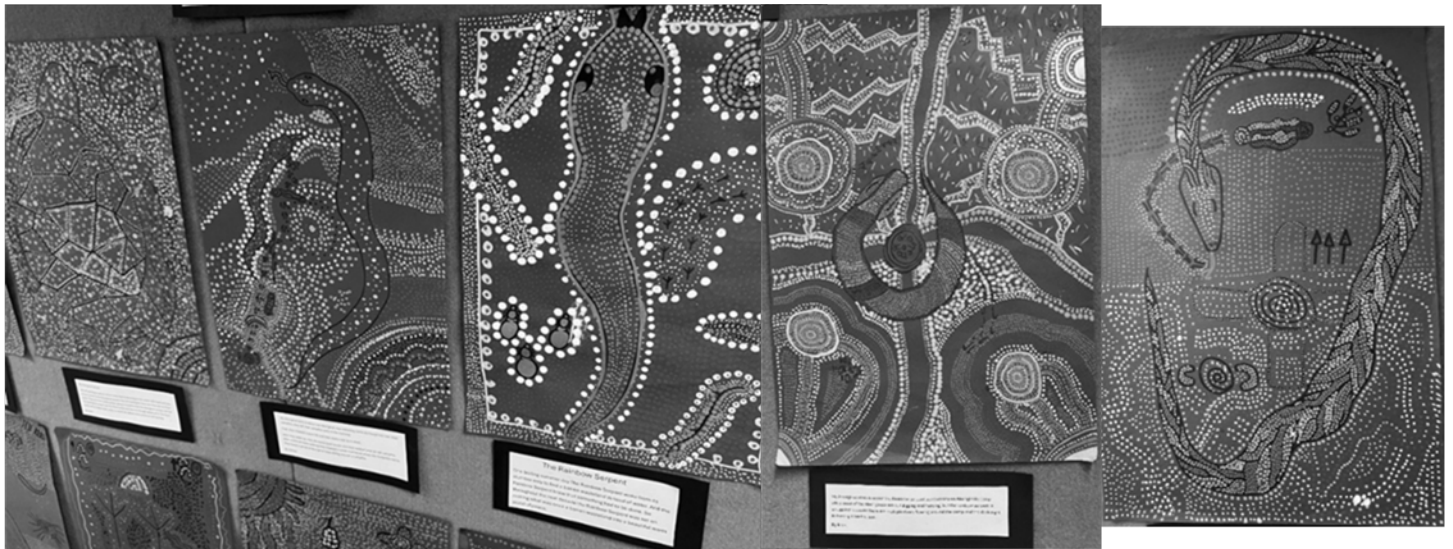
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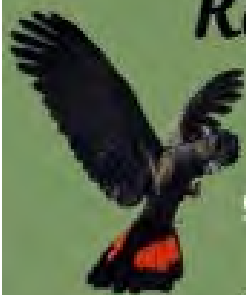


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540 Mechanical

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.



The Noongar season of *Kambarang* continues. The soil is drying out and the days are starting to heat up!! Make the most of the cooler mornings and evenings and get busy

tidying up before it gets too hot. It is your last chance to plant out the remainder of your long season crops including Pumpkins, especially if you are growing large varieties that require 100 days to mature for storage in Autumn.

I love the incredible diversity of a Summer vegetable patch and one of the benefits of living in a Mediterranean climate is being able to grow food year round. However, gardening in our climate during summer has a few challenges including Water, Heat and Shade or lack of... Here are my Top 5 tips for growing a Productive Summer Garden. Tip #1 Grow smart - Focus on growing crops that give you the best bang for your buck - the ones you eat often, have a short shelf/fridge lifespan, can be hard to source and/or are expensive to buy. Tip #2 Reduce your stress - planting seasonal veg varieties means tasty produce with less pest pressure. Tip #3 Succession plant for staggered harvest and less gluts/food waste. Tip #4 Get creative! Use your vertical spaces - grow food and create shade - Win, win. Tip #5 Consistent watering is the key - always early morning or late afternoon.

Glorious Garlic! Harvesting time is nearly here and as your bulbs mature, keep an eye out for any scapes. A Garlic Scape is the flower stalk produced by hard-neck garlic bulb varieties and I find mine appear about 4 weeks before the bulbs are ready to harvest. Scapes are usually removed to encourage better bulb formation. They don't need to go to waste - they are very yummy added to stir-fries, sautéed with your asparagus and served over eggs for breakfast or added to a quiche. I make mine into Garlic Scape Pesto and freeze it in portions. Don't let your bulbs die right back, rot in the ground or pick them too early - you have worked too hard to waste the harvest now! * Here are my tips for knowing when to harvest your crop. Your garlic bulbs are ready when 4 leaves from the bottom have died/browned off, however I find a more reliable way to check is to brush a bit of dirt from around the top of the bulb, then run your finger around the outside of the bulb. You should be able to feel 'bumps' just like if you run your finger over knuckles on a clenched fist. These bumps are your well formed cloves. Cloves form in the last few weeks before harvest so if you happen to pick them too early the garlic will resemble an onion inside when cut open. Hang them to dry in a shaded area before brushing off the dirt, trimming the roots and plaiting them for long term storage.

With the price of eggs in the shop there is a renewed interest in people choosing to keep chooks at home. Many of you will be longtime fanciers and know the wonderful joy and incredible frustration that is the backyard chook... Chickens provide us with eggs, manure and at times can be a helpful clean up crew. They are fantastic foragers, will turn vegie scraps into compost but can also be mini tractors - chickens and newly planted seedlings don't mix - *hence the frustration*. While we grow a patch to feed ourselves, many commonly grown vegies and herbs are also useful companion plants for increasing the health of your chickens and assisting with egg production. Basil, comfrey, dill, fennel, lemon balm, nasturtium, silverbeet and parsley are all great for egg production. Add garlic, lavender, mint, oregano, rosemary, thyme and wormwood and

you have healthy hens. You can grow them around the edge of your chook pen or pick an occasional bouquet to supplement their grain and grit. Regular coop cleaning keeps them happy & healthy with the bonus that the materials can be utilised to increase your fertility at home. Chook poo is a great source of Nitrogen but needs to be composted before being added to your garden to reduce any potential fertiliser 'burn' and pathogen risks. Chooks are fun to watch and their eggs are a rewarding addition to your homegrown harvests.

What can we plant in November? *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, Daikon, Potato, Leeks, Spring Onions, Yacon, Yam/Oca, Jerusalem Artichoke Legume crops - Dwarf Beans, Climbing Beans, Snow peas, Asparagus pea Cucurbit & 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 Summer Gardening!

The Sustainable Living Workshops held at the Dardanup Hall have finished for the year and will start up again in March 2026.

Wishing all my workshop attendees a very Happy Summer Growing Season!

GREEN DOOR TURNS 10 - A Decade of Wine, Food & Good Times!

We're turning 10 and would love for you to join us in celebrating with an Italian-inspired long table dinner in the winery.

Dress to impress and get ready for a night of dancing, great wine, incredible food by Market Eating House, and a table that overflows with stories, toasts, and shared memories.

Let's raise a glass to the past ten years.
Cin cin!

Saturday 22 November 2025
5:30PM - Late
Tickets:

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

Dardanup Lions News

Our members have a direct hand in fundraising at commencement of the hay season. We offer our labours (the fit Lions) to cart in some of the locals awkward little square hay bales. The more experienced crews get to the shed with the load intact.

We have an indirect source of funds with "Cash for Cans", Pub meat Raffle, Festival raffle. As well as sundry projects like firewood, shared Festival drinks outlet and Australia Day breakfast.

As far as where the projects funds are dispersed, then registered charities including research foundations (25 in those categories) and certain community beneficiaries are helped. This is helping against disadvantages seen or advancement required for scholarships and the like. A Lion has been tasked with making a board to keep patrons of the pub abreast of how their invested raffle stakes are spent. The government has committed \$6m to upgrade the Lions Eye Institute but it takes contributed donations that all Lions Clubs in the state as well as us make to fund ongoing research.

Ferguson Valley Visitors Centre is humming!

Pop in and visit for locally sourced gifts and cards for that special occasion or Christmas at 5 Ferguson Road right in Dardanup, open 9.30 – 3.30 pm daily.

Sara Brandli is our featured Local Artist for October and November whose work has a whimsical flavour as Zentangle Inspired Art (ZIA) seen in her collection of cards and small prints in the Visitor Centre. Sara is known as a visual storyteller and has won an Emerging Artist Award and Runner-up to the main Award at the last two Dardanup Art Spectacular Festivals.

"I first became acquainted with the Zentangle method after visiting America and eventually led me to ZIA. Tiny is part of my signature and appears in my artwork. When I start a piece, I have no idea what is going to happen, to quote Zentangle: *anything is possible one stroke at a time.*"

Sara is a qualified Mindfulness teacher and finds ZIA a very mindful platform.

Save the date for the Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre Christmas Fete on Sunday 16th November – the Centre will be open for getting your potted cuttings, garden sleeves and gloves or a cheeky garden gnome. Enjoy the roses, grab a barista coffee and indulge yourself with a delicious home baked treat from our Sweet Treats stall. See the poster in this edition for details.

Dardanup Lions Lead Acid Battery fundraising. This collection service has switched location. The club says thank you Ray Bottomley for the many years that you hosted this fund raising venture. Lion Grant Ruland has a dedicated drop off point at his business base 29 Kerr Road East Picton. Spent LEAD ACID batteries only.

...and The members were at a recent meeting receivers of a healthier eating plan to help against brain / mental losses. Lana Brandli told us that for mental well-being two things are important.

1 FAT QUALITIES –consume Omega 3 oil from sources such as fish and walnuts because the messaging within the brain itself relies on it.

2 FIBRE – from vegetables, oaten grain, salads - as that will ensure favourable bugs in our microbiome that in turn give us essential vitamins etc, reducing inflammation which is associated with nearly all ailments.

Phil Ottrey

We appreciate our Volunteers who give their time and local knowledge with a warm welcome to our latest Vollies; Bec and Ruth. We will be catching up as a group in January so you can meet us all!

Visitors on holiday love to see a Local so ring us on 97 281 551 if interested to talk to happy travellers – we will put you in touch with Coordinator Gae.

Robyn Jones



Sara Brandli with her artwork



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



Early Settlement of Dardanup

By the commencement of World War I in 1914, the town of Dardanup had evolved from its colonial beginnings, surviving the trials of early settlement to become an important transport hub for local timber and agricultural industries.

The first inhabitants of this area were the Nyoongar people of the Wilman, Kaneang and Wadandi language groups. They lived from, and travelled across this land; towards the coast in the warmer months and inland in the cooler months, always near waterways. Nyoongar people cared for the land, burning country as they went to encourage new growth and attract game like yongka (kangaroos) and kwer (wallabies).

European settlement around Dardanup began in the early 1840s when the Reverend John Wollaston and his sons farmed an area known as *The Pools*. From that time until the end of the nineteenth century, Dardanup's economy was driven by a few large landholdings alongside smaller holdings taken up by migrants. From 1838 Charles Prinsep, through his agent Thomas Little, purchased over 20,000 acres of land in the area to breed horses for the Indian market. These properties were later run by his son Henry Prinsep who sold them to Henry Venn in 1877.

Thomas Little, an Irishman, purchased properties of his own. One would become *Dardanup Park*. From the late 1840s, Thomas and his wife Eliza supported Irish migrant families to settle on small blocks of land as tenant farmers in and around what is now the town of Dardanup. For much of the 1800s these smallholders subsisted off their land. Many lived in timber homes or whitewashed and thatched cottages, reminiscent of Ireland.



From the late 1840s, Irish migrant families at Dardanup often lived in whitewashed and thatched cottages like this one belonging to James Cleary. It was demolished in the 1920s and replaced with a timber cottage which still stands today.

Aside from horse and cattle breeding on the larger holdings, sheep, fruit, vegetables, potatoes, wheat and grapevines were grown on Dardanup farms.

Thomas Little established a strong Catholic community at Dardanup providing land and building materials in 1852 to construct the first Catholic church outside Perth. He also built the town's first school next to the Church. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Italian migrants also began moving to the area.



From the 1840s until about 1900, the Dardanup area was home to large landholders like Charles and Henry Prinsep, Thomas Little and later Henry Venn. This image shows Thomas Little's standing in front of his house, Dardanup Park, in 1873.

A significant change occurred at Dardanup when the Bunbury to Boyanup rail line opened to locomotives in 1891 and the Bunbury to Perth line opened in 1893. Ready rail transport presented new business opportunities.

From 1896 the Canning Jarrah Timber Co. set up a large timber operation at Wellington Mills, accessed by rail, 19 kilometres east of Dardanup. Large storage yards, where sawn timber awaited transport to Bunbury port for export, were established at Dardanup. This was a turning point for Dardanup as many timber workers moved to the area.

By 1914, thanks these events, a town had formed along Charlotte St parallel to the railway line. The business life of the town was somewhat unusual as most operations were run by women, descendants of the first Irish settlers; the Dardanup Hotel by licensee Ellen Skipworth (nee Coonan), the general store by Catherine Prout (nee Slattery) and the Post Office from about 1905 by Mary Coonan (later Mary Holland).

A butcher's shop was built on Charlotte St in 1908 for Morrissey Bros, a well-known butchering business owned by the George Henry, John Patrick, and Richard Morrissey. In 1916, Dardanup would also become the site of large livestock saleyards, built to take advantage of ready rail transport to Bunbury and Perth.

According to diaries of George Fee, a Dardanup farmer, social life in the town was very lively. Even prior to the building of the Dardanup Agricultural Hall in 1894 dances, socials, fundraisers and card nights were regularly held in private homes. The Catholic community remained strong in the town and the Church and presbytery were a focus of community and social activity.

The school set up in 1854 by Thomas Little, first at his home and then in a dedicated building, was taken over by the State government in 1880. A new public school was built and opened in 1897. In 1914, this was the only school in Dardanup although the Sisters of Mercy re-established Catholic education in Dardanup in 1920. From that time there would always be two schools.

Dardanup's population in 1856 was 110, with 75 of those recorded as Catholic or as tenants of Thomas Little. Fifty years later in 1898 the population was still only 118. By 1914 it was likely higher because of timber industry workers and probably around 150.

When enlistees left Dardanup for World War I, thanks to the hard work and initiative of its early settlers, Dardanup had become a relatively sophisticated and connected community with a railway station, telegraph and postal services, thriving businesses and an active social scene. It would have been a beloved home for those who served.



This photo of Charlotte Street in 1916 shows how much Dardanup had evolved since early settlement. Hotel licensee Ellen Skipworth (formerly Coonan), sent the photo to her four sons at the Great War front; William and Joseph Coonan were killed in action while Michael and Marcus Coonan returned. The photo shows the Dardanup Hotel in the foreground, Morrissey's butcher shop next door, then the General Store. The post office is at the far end of the street.

All this information can be found on the Dardanup Heritage Collective Website

Shire of Dardanup News What's On at the Library !

There's plenty happening at the library this November, with something for all ages and interests. From creative sessions and family fun to eco-minded programs and local history, the library is the place to be.

Jo Jingles

Join Jo Jingles for a fun, musical time with *Tiny Wiggles* (ages 0–2) and *Little Jiggles* (ages 2–5). These lively sessions are filled with singing, rhythm, and movement. Bookings are essential.

Crafty Corner

Drop into Eaton Library every Tuesday from 1–3pm for a relaxed afternoon of craft and creativity.

After School Art Club

Get creative on Tuesdays from 3:30–4:30pm. A fun space for children to explore art and imagination. Bookings essential.

After School LEGO Club

Join us every Wednesday from 3:30–4:30pm to build, design, and play.

Storytime

Enjoy stories, songs, and simple crafts every Thursday morning at 9:30am.

A wonderful way for young children and families to start the day.

Planet Matters

Our eco-minded program promotes local organisations and initiatives that care for our local flora and fauna. = on the 2nd Thursday of every month 4–5pm

Blue Leaf Book Club and Discover Your Family History

Take part in our late-night library sessions on the third Thursday of each month. Enjoy thoughtful book discussions and learn tips for exploring your family tree. Bookings are essential for both.

Cards and Cake

Mark your calendars – on **Friday 14th November**, from **10am to 12pm**, it's time for Cards & Cake at the library! Enjoy a relaxed morning of card making, card playing, and plenty of board games, all with a generous serving of cake Tea and Coffee.

Plus, each table will feature a special Hot Seat, with representatives from local organisation here to support you!

And there's much more happening throughout the month.
To find out more or to book your place, visit our website:
[Events Calendar » Shire of Dardanup](#)

What's on In Dardanup

- 4 November – Mens Welfare Group – 2pm at the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms
- 11 November – Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm
- 12 November – Mahjong at the Shire office, free, 1.30- 4.00pm
- 12 November – Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival, final meeting
- 13 November – Dardanup Arts AGM, 6pm Wells Rec Park Clubrooms
- 16 November- Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre Xmas Fete
- 18 November - Dardanup Seniors meeting
- 18 November - Mens Welfare Group – 2pm at Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms
- 18 November, Dardanup and Districts Residents Assoc AGM, 7.30pm at the Wells Rec Park Clubrooms
- 23 November - Boyanup Farmers Market, 8am
- 25 November - Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm
- 26 November- Mahjong at the Shire office, free, 1.30- 4.00pm
- 30 November – firebreaks and fire prevention work on properties to be completed
- 30 November – Crooked Brook Forest AGM, 4.30pm and BBQ after at CBF, 0418 281 201
- 21 December – Ferguson Hall Xmas Tree – save the date!

If you have an event to add
please email
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 4th 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 – 1st 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
- 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 3rd Sunday, 9am, all denominations welcome.
- SW Rose Soc – 2nd Sunday of each month, 10.00am, @ Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms
- SW Veteran Car Club – 1st 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
- Dardanup Central Bushfire Brigade training @ the Fire Station, Recreation Rd, 5.30pm every Wednesday
- Ferguson Valley Mountain Bike Club – 1st Wednesday of the month at the Wells Rec Park Clubrooms, Mark, 0408 331 447
- Mens Welfare Group – 1st and 3rd 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 Revely 0408 833 761

Dardanup Heritage Collective News

Heritage Display – Clothing of the Past

On Sunday 16 November the Dardanup Heritage Collective is holding a display “Clothing of the Past” at the Thomas Little Hall in Dardanup.

It will feature wedding clothes of the past and accompanying wedding photos from those special days. Many locals will be contributing items.

Sports/school uniforms of surrounding districts’ State schools, closed in 1971, will also be on display along with a slideshow of historic photographs of Dardanup.

The display will coincide with the Ferguson Valley Visitors’ Centre Annual Christmas Market, a wonderful opportunity for locals to buy up their Christmas gifts. The Dardanup Heritage Collective will also have a range of history books available for sale.

More detail in the poster below.

For more Dardanup stories, go to our website:

dardanupheritagecollective.org.au.

Janice Calcei

Congratulations to

Everyone involved with the Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival, Lost and Found Festival and the Ferguson Valley Open Gardens

Vale:

Judy Gardiner, longtime resident of Wellington Mills and Dardanup, sincere sympathy to her 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
Email: dardanupheritagecollective@gmail.com
PO BOX 204, Dardanup WA 6236



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

Monday, 10 November Getting the Most from your Seniors Card Learn how to access the most from your Seniors Card including discounts, services, and benefits. Eaton Library 10am - 12pm, no bookings required	Tuesday, 11 November Estate Planning & Arthritis/Osteoporosis Wellness Expert estate planning advice, wills, powers of attorney, healthcare directives + practical tips for living well with arthritis. Dardanup Wells Rec Pavilion 11am - 1pm, bookings required
Tuesday, 11 November Chair Yoga in Dardanup Join us for a gentle session of chair yoga designed to promote relaxation and muscle strength. Dardanup Wells Rec Pavilion 1pm - 2pm, no bookings required	Wednesday, 12 November Chats & Cheers Join Dani Hewton from NextGen Wellness for a thoughtful and engaging morning tea conversation focused on the power of effective communication. Bethanie Fields 9am - 10am, no bookings required
Wednesday, 12 November Burekup Paint & Sip Join us for a relaxed and creative watercolour paint and sip workshop where the focus is all about giving it a go! Morning tea included. Burekup Hall 9.30am - 12pm, no bookings required	Friday, 14 November Cards & Cake Enjoy a relaxed morning of card making, card playing, and board games. Plus enjoy plenty of cake, tea, and coffee - on us! Eaton Library 10am - 12pm, no bookings required

The Dardanup Times thanks our generous sponsors



Santa is coming, so save the date!

Ferguson Hall Christmas Tree

Start getting ready for our annual christmas tree celebration!
Hit the interested going button on facebook to stay upto date on all the details!

2025
DECEMBER 21 SUNDAY
5:00PM



Public Notice – Invitation to the Dardanup Art Spectacular AGM

Dear Community Member,

You are warmly invited to attend the Dardanup Art Spectacular Annual General Meeting.

The AGM is a wonderful opportunity to meet the current Committee, hear about our past year, and learn how you can get involved or contribute to this much-loved community event.

We welcome everyone who shares a passion for art and community spirit – your ideas, energy, and support make all the difference! 🎨❤️

AGM - Thursday 13th

**November 2025 @6pm at
Wells Recreation Clubrooms,
Dardanup.**

FOR SHIRE OF DARDANUP RESIDENTS

DARDANUP SPEAKS: WHAT DO WE NEED FOR HEART-HEALTHY EATING

MICRO COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Join researchers from Edith Cowan University in shaping the future development of programs and support services to encourage heart-healthy eating in our community. We're seeking Shire of Dardanup residents who have experienced heart disease, stroke, or live with risk factors like high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, or high blood sugars/diabetes to share your insights about what you need to support following a heart-healthy diet.

Together, we'll explore what our community needs to make heart-healthy eating achievable, from resources and support systems to research priorities that matter most to you and your family.

Your voice will directly influence future programs and support services designed to help individuals and families adopt and maintain heart-healthy eating.

An \$80 honorarium (gift card) is offered to attendees and light refreshments will be provided.

DATE: Friday, 14 November 2025

TIME: 10am - 12 noon

LOCATION: Eaton Recreation Centre



Find out more & submit your EOI to attend:



**FERGUSON VALLEY
VISITOR CENTRE**

CHRISTMAS

Fete

**Sunday 16th November
9am - 2pm
5 Ferguson road, Dardanup**

Enjoy a coffee, sausage sizzle and live music café style in the Visitor centre gardens as you explore an exciting array of goods from local artisans & we'll have our 'Paint a gnome' stall again for the young at heart. Great opportunity to get a head start on your Xmas shopping.

For further info:
FVVC Co-Ordinator
gbessen@bigpond.com
0417 099 100