



Free



MARCH 2026

THE DARDANUP TIMES

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

Dardanup Community Groups Showcased @ the Community Connections Night

16 local not for profit organizations came together recently with community members to talk all things volunteering - sharing their purpose and passion and the many ways people can get involved. "The energy in the room was amazing, such dedicated people and such a vibrant community" said Susanne Becker- Hamersley from Volunteer SW who organized the evening partnering with the Dardanup and Districts Residents Assoc. Susanne spoke about how to attract volunteers in this busy world in which we live which was very informative and helpful. Everyone had a few laughs, made new connections and learnt such a lot about the activities of volunteer groups in our community. Each community group used the new TV at Wells Clubrooms in their presentations which worked really well. This activity was supported through Volunteering WA's Volunteer Management Activity, funded by the Australian Govt Dept of Social Services



Dardanup Community Connections Night @ Wells Clubrooms

Big News from Our Corner of the Paddock!

Congratulations to Emma and Kirk Reynolds from Dardanup Rural for winning Store of the Year for WA and SA at this years Australian Independent Rural Retailers Conference. Emma and Kirk said "this award belongs just as much to our loyal customers and local community as it does to our team. Thankyou for supporting local - we truly couldn't do it without you"



Emma, Kirk and Maggie the dog with their Trophy

CALL TO ARTISTS

DARDANUP art SPECTACULAR

Entries open 2 March - 10 April 2026

★ New this year! Early bird prize! ★
All entries in by 13 March will go into the draw and 1 lucky artist will win free art entry AND opening night ticket!

💰 **Over \$12,000 Prize Money**
🏆 **Over Seven Categories**

Opening night Friday 1 May 2026

Exhibition at Dardanup Hall & Art Trail in Dardanup townsite & Ferguson Valley venues 2&3 May 2026

dardanupartspectacular.com.au

Building Connections One Brick At A Time at The Dardanup Library

From the Shires website

A new weekly social program is launching at the Dardanup Library, giving community members the chance to reconnect, create and unwind through the Lions LEGO® Social Club.

Running every Wednesday 10.00am to 12.00pm, the free adult-only program is a partnership between Shire of Dardanup Library Services and the Dardanup Lions Club, designed to bring people together through hands-on creativity and conversation.

Participants can build together, share ideas, and enjoy a relaxed social setting and even borrow LEGO® kits to continue their creations at home between sessions.

All kits have been generously purchased and supplied by the Dardanup Lions Club, who manage their upkeep.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said the Shire is supporting the initiative by housing the kits at Dardanup Library and promoting the program within the community.

Cr Gardiner said the initiative highlights the evolving role of libraries as welcoming community hubs.

“Libraries today are about much more than books — they’re places where people connect,” Cr Gardiner said.

“The Lions LEGO® Social Club creates a relaxed, inclusive space for adults to socialise, learn from one another and enjoy something creative together.”

The idea for the club was brought to the Shire by members of the Dardanup Lions Club, led by Reg Green, after recognising a growing need for connection among local seniors.

“The Lions Club of Dardanup became aware that many seniors in our community live alone and can feel quite lonely at times,” Mr Green said.

“After taking local advice, the Club put together the first four loan kits of adult LEGO and other puzzles that seniors can borrow from Dardanup Library, while enjoying a cuppa and a chat with Lions members.”

The initiative also supports broader efforts to encourage greater adult engagement, particularly men, in library spaces through informal, interest-based activities.

Cr Gardiner said partnerships with community organisations were key to delivering meaningful, inclusive programs.

“Community connection is at the heart of everything we do,” Cr Gardiner said.

“By working alongside local service groups like the Dardanup Lions, we can offer programs that support wellbeing, inclusion and lifelong learning.”

While the project is currently managed by the Dardanup Lions Club, there are plans to explore expanding the concept to other library locations in the future.

Residents are encouraged to drop in, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, chat with the volunteers and take part.

For more information, visit the Shire of Dardanup Library website or speak to library staff.



L to R, Shire President Tyrrell Gardiner and Lions Rob Webster, Reg Green and Brian Ewart With Their Legos

Dardanup Senior Citizens Inc News

At our Meeting on the 17th February we had 23 Members in attendance & 3 apologies.

Shire of Dardanup Councillor Annette Webster was a visitor.

Our Member, Lance Hurst brought Lawn Bowls for us to have a go. A bit of action for some while some onlookers were enjoying a chat & cuppa.

We celebrated Lesley Gibbs 90th & Ann Kirkpatrick's 80th Birthday with cakes made by Gwen Wells. Hope our birthday ladies enjoyed their day. Happy 96th Birthday to Sheila Butcher.

We are going on a Bus Trip to Pinjarra on the 22nd April Travelling by 39 seat luxury coach with Bunbury Bus Service. Going to Edenvale Heritage Tea Rooms, a 130 year old heritage listed award winning homestead. with beautiful gardens.

And newly renovated heritage Exchange Hotel in Pinjarra for lunch.

Depart – Dardanup Town Hall 9am

Return - Dardanup Town Hall approx. 3pm

Members \$20.00 pp Visitors \$30.00 pp.

All Meals/Drinks buy your own. Please book your seat

Membership \$15.00 pa for over 55's Visitors welcome

Next Meeting on 17th March

“Remember to take the time to Smell the Roses”

Revely Gardiner 0408833761

Dardanupseniorcitizens@outlook.com



Birthday Girls – Anne Kirkpatrick on left and Lesley Gibbs

Ferguson Valley Visitors Centre News

Pop in and visit for locally sourced gifts and cards for that special occasion at 5 Ferguson Road right in Dardanup, open 9.30 – 3.30 pm daily. Keep in mind the Visitors Centre will be selling Mothers Day Flowers again this year.

Our Artisan of the Month showcased at the FVVC for March features Peta Gelmi from her Little Baking Co who is also well known at the Boyanup Markets for her fruit cakes, Florentines, Anzacs, carrot cake, apple pies, biscotti, muffins, choc slice, gingerbread men, mini men biscuits and friands in her repertoire. This month Peta is adding banana bread as a bake and hastens to add all products not supplied monthly! Peta started her local business after being a Food Science Assistant for 15 years and enjoys the creativity and beautiful presentation of her bakes that are gift wrapped for any occasion. She finds the baking soulful and enjoys seeing the customers loving a traditional product – the fruit cake is bought by a lot of men on a regular basis! Peta takes orders for Xmas favourites including shortbread, plum puddings in various sizes, rocky road, fruit mince pies and xmas tree decorated biscuits for children. The 2 litre plum pudding needs to be ordered by mid November to her mobile 0400 524 583 or at the Boyanup Markets.



Peta Gelmi and Her Selection of Delicious Home Baked Goods

The Visitors Centre had its first monthly Meeting for the year in February with Lyndsey Kennewell from the overarching Ferguson Valley Marketing Inc organisation and will continue to be held on the second Monday each month at 9.30 am – all welcome and particularly any person wanting to see what we do and

meet the other Volunteers present. We have many opportunities for volunteering projects as big or small as you like – in the VC meeting visitors to our region, smaller fundraising projects or maybe just be on call for 4 hours at a time on the Gnomesville pop up desk (dogs on leashes welcome!) or maybe at a different level using your event management/computer skills or smaller projects on the Lost & Found Committee. Contact Sue at chair@fergusonvalley.net.au

Robyn Jones

Shire of Dardanup Tit Bits

New road names approved for Dardanup West subdivision

As part of a new 22²lot subdivision on Padbury Road, a fresh local road name has been selected: Paddys Place, with McHugh Court endorsed as an alternative. Both names honour the Garvey family, early settlers with longstanding ties to the locality. Extensions of Killarney Road and Summerhill Drive were also supported, ensuring continuity within the existing road network before the naming request proceeds to Landgate's Geographical Names Committee.

Ratcliffe Road extension supported for dedication

A request will now be made to the Minister for Lands to dedicate a section of Forest Reserve 25 as road reserve, enabling Ratcliffe Road to formally extend through to a private property. The proponent has already upgraded

the former access track to a local access rural (gravel) road standard and undertaken surveying at their own cost. Public advertising and agency consultation resulted in no objections, allowing the dedication process to progress.

Henty Road widening tender awarded

Following a competitive public tender process, Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd has been selected to deliver the Henty Road Widening Project. Works will include widening to a 7.2²metre seal, shoulder sealing, and the installation of audible edge and centre lines to enhance safety. The project is fully funded through the Australian Black Spot Program State and Federal road safety programs and is expected to commence shortly, with delivery targeted before mid²2026, depending on contractor availability



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Ferguson Valley Community Hall

A successful Quiz Night was held on Friday 13th February run by Anthony Congdon and his wonderful family with many thanks to all the generous local businesses who donated all the wonderful raffle/doorprize/auction items. The funds raised covered the round tables bought recently and plans for the Community events to be held in the Hall during 2026.

Coming events for March is a mini Yoga Retreat on Sunday 22nd March 10 – 1.30 (contact Gyani on prakritiyoga108@gmail.com) and the Philharmonic SW Orchestra Music Trail with a high energy musical showcase at 29 March, 11.30 am in the Ferguson Hall with Morning Tea available. Tickets to be sold on pswo.com.au

Come on and join the friendly free Community Choir on Mondays 7-9 pm or Yoga with Gyani during school term 5.45 – 7 pm, Wednesdays, class fees for term sessions. Community Sundowners from on the first Friday of the month – next one on 6th March.

Looking Smick the Ferguson Hall
Featuring the Freshly Painted Portico

The AGM is to be held on the 10th April 5 pm at 953 Ferguson Road (across the road at Jones’) due to the Hall being set up for a Wedding the following day. All welcome to attend and any enquiries including hiring the Hall to bse7@bigpond.com – recent comment from a couple inspecting and booking the hall for a birthday celebration; “best kept Hall we have seen, clean and only one with round tables!”
Robyn Jones



SW Country Music Club News

March 15th

Australind Seniors Hall, Mardo Avenue

(Due to unforeseen circumstances (sealing of the floor in Boyanup Hall) this dance 15th March is now going to be held at the Australind Seniors

Hall, Mardo Avenue)

Dance 1.00 - 4.30pm

Band BANDWAGON

Tea/coffee/ plates of afternoon tea available at all dances, along with raffles/money board/members draw/door prize

Everyone welcome to share in an afternoon of fun, great music and dancing



Boyanup Farmers Market

Great to be letting you know about Boyanup Farmers Market in 2026.

We have David Doepel and Barbara Connell of Melville Park who have been part of our market for nearly two years. Their picturesque property sits proudly on the banks of the Brunswick River, where fertile soils and fresh river breezes help produce some of their finest farm goods.

They bring along an impressive range of farm-made cheeses that have received several awards and a colourful variety of seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables. Shoppers can enjoy whatever is at its peak all grown and made with care at Melville Park.

With their commitment to quality and sustainable farming, David and Barbara have made Melville Park a standout name at the market and a valued part of the local food community.

Our next market date is 22nd March, 2026 between 8.00am and 12.00pm, hope you can join us for a great Sunday morning, supporting local growers, producers and makers.

Tanya Williams



Melville Park at Brunswick

The Bearded Bloke

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What's Happening with Ferguson Valley Marketing – and How You Can Help

The Ferguson Valley Marketing Association (FVM) are still busy behind the scenes doing the groundwork required to strengthen how our Valley is promoted, supported and experienced — by both visitors and locals.

February had us working closely with the Shire of Dardanup to set a clear strategic direction for the future as our 5 years strategy for growth and promotion of our valued community was shared with our Council. We completed a Regional Economic Development (RED) Grant application, supported in principle by the Shire, a plan which aims to improve visitor services, infrastructure and promotion across the Valley. Our focus is on practical outcomes: clearer signage, better wayfinding, stronger visitor information, and support for visitor and community experiences that reflect what makes the Ferguson Valley special — food and wine, nature-based activities, wellness tourism, trails, events and short-stay accommodation.

While this planning work is important, FVM knows that the real strength of the Valley lies in its people. Volunteers continue to be the backbone of what happens on the ground, particularly at the Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre and at pop-up activities at Gnomesville. These volunteer-led activities do more than welcome visitors. They also help generate vital funds that we reinvest directly back into the Valley — funding things like signage, promotional materials, tourist maps, business networking nights and initiatives that help more people discover what the Valley has to offer.

Lost and Found Festival is a key part of this work and we are looking forward to another outstanding program of events in

2026. Festival planning is fun, entertaining and based on working together as a team and we hope to share some of these great opportunities to support our valley's success. That's why FVM is putting the call out to the community. Whether you're recently retired, new to the area, a local with great Valley knowledge, or simply someone who enjoys meeting people, volunteering is a simple and rewarding way to give back. Even a few hours here and there can make a real difference.

If you care about the Ferguson Valley and want to help shape how it's seen and experienced, FVM would love to hear from you.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED – HELP PROMOTE THE FERGUSON VALLEY

Ferguson Valley Marketing Inc is currently seeking volunteers to help with:

- Staffing the Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre
- Assisting at Gnomesville pop-ups and busy periods
- Supporting activities such as Lost and Found Festival , activities that raise funds for Valley signage and tourist promotion

No experience needed — just a friendly attitude and a willingness to help.

Contact:

Ebony Harding

Executive Admin & Marketing

Ferguson Valley Marketing Inc

PO Box 7180, Eaton WA 6232

Mob: 0428 281 551

Email: marketing@fergusonvalley.net.au

Website: <https://fergusonvalley.net.au/>

Helping Hands Hub

This will be a regular segment in the Dardanup Times featuring the odd jobs our community groups need a hand with, no joining a Committee, just an hour or 2 of your time and willingness to support the community



SW Rose Soc

Is looking for people to deadhead roses at the FV Visitor Centre in

Ferguson Rd from **8am on Wednesday 4th and Wednesday 18th March.** BYO secateurs & hat. Extra secateurs will be available. No experience needed, just removing flower heads. Jenny, 0417 595 095

Dardanup Art Spectacular Committee

Is looking for people to paint plinths and art stands in readiness for the Dardanup Art Spectacular. All equipment supplied plus delicious morning tea. **Sunday 22 March, 9.30am** at the Dardanup Hall.

BYO gloves as using black paint, no skills required.

Kerry, 0402 094 830.



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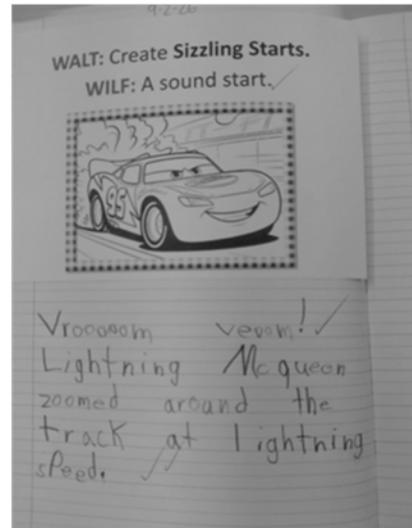
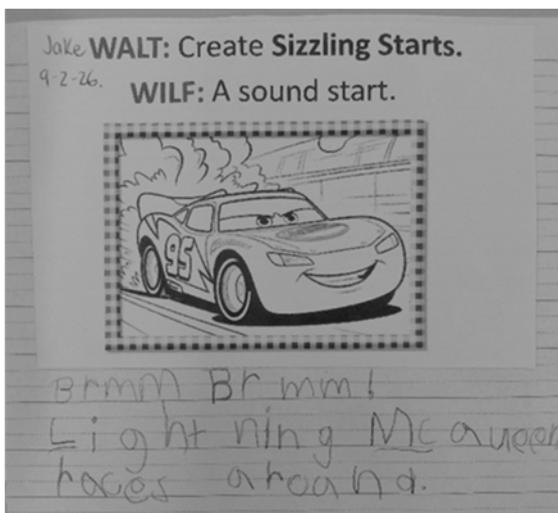
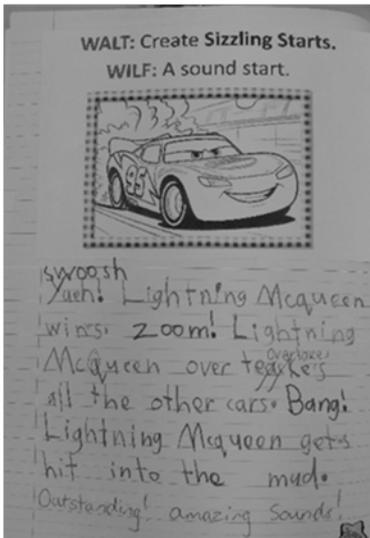
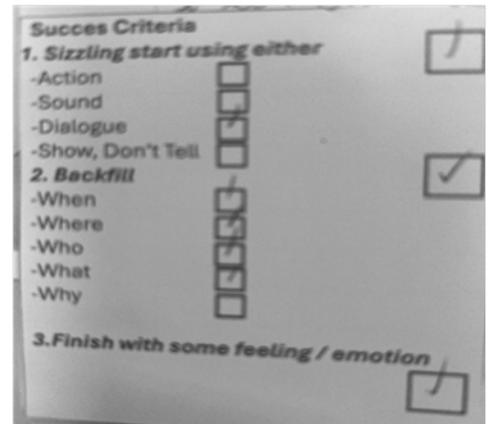
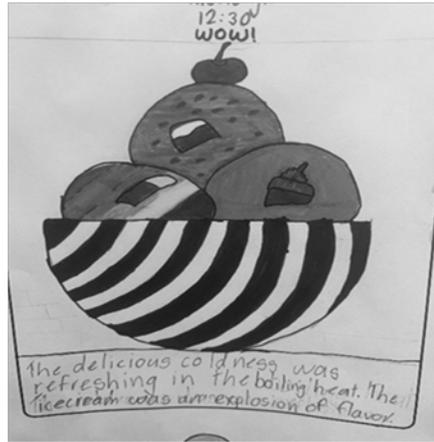


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Another great start for our students and families. Our Pre-primary students learning with letter sounds – S- for sunflower and riding bikes taking turns at the ‘bus stop’ to allow next student to have a turn. Play based learning evidence supports a smooth transition from home to school.



Students create stories using ‘Sizzling Start’ techniques. The work produced is a testament to the vibrant writing program Dardanup Primary has invested to ensure creativity, confidence and quality writing skills by all our students.





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New staff at Dardanup Primary for 2026.

Left to right:

Marie Brandis: I have been teaching for 19 years, mainly in the Pilbara, and I am really excited to join the wonderful staff and community at Dardanup Primary School. I have taught all years levels from Year 1-6. I enjoy playing sport and spending time with family and friends

Charlene Rose I am very excited to join the Dardanup community as the Year 2/3 teacher. I was born in Bunbury and really enjoying living and working in our beautiful region. I'm married with two children, enjoy spending time at the beach and I am an avid Fremantle Dockers fan. I have already been made to feel so welcome, and I'm truly excited to be part of such a wonderful school community. I'm looking forward to getting to know all students and families and to seeing what we can achieve together this year.

Principal : Anthea Patten: I have worked across a number of industries, including mining and local government, but education has always had my heart. I've had the privilege of leading schools as small as 35 students and as large as 530. For me, Dardanup is the perfect size. I genuinely love the students, the families and the strong sense of community here. There's something very special about being part of a school where relationships matter and everyone works together to give children the very best opportunities.

I feel incredibly grateful to be part of this community both personally and professionally and am looking forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Nathan Graham: I'm thrilled to be appointed the STEM teacher at Dardanup. I have a background in Chemistry, Science and agricultural research. I look forward to being a part of this community.



March is the second month of the Noongar Season *Bunaru* (Second summer) Thankfully the mornings are beginning to get cooler but the days can still be hot and dry.

Roll up your sleeves and gather your supplies. *It's Harvest Time!* Find your collection of jars, bottles and vacola accessories. It is time to get busy blanching, drying and bottling the abundance for later in the year. This doesn't just mean making the most of what you have in the garden, when fruit is in season it is very economical to buy a box from your local farmer / orchardist too! Buy in bulk for savings and keep an eye out for 'pick your own days', why not car pool with friends and take advantage of the savings.

As we harvest the Summer bounty, it is time to think about planting winter crops. Autumn is the second busiest planting time in our climate. Getting your crops in now so you don't experience a 'Hungry Gap'. Successive plantings of fast growing salad and stir-fry greens will help to fill the gap between the summer veg and your winter crops. Remember don't wait until all the crops are finished, when you pull something out, plant something in its place so you will always have something to eat!

What to plant? Some crops are cheap and easily available locally, so may be ones you purchase rather than grow. (Carrots are cheap but taste so much better when grown at home!) Others provide year round food to cover seasonal gaps or fill your pantry for a fraction of the cost. To create the most productive and cost effective garden we need to consider which crops give us the most yield and best value for space. Some of my favourite reliable, easy to grow winter staples include Parsley, Silverbeet (Swiss Chard), Kale, Watercress, Spinach, Mustard Greens, Rocket, Spring Onions, Broccoli, Beetroot and Carrots. These are great nutritionally dense crops that can be grown in pots, raised beds and larger patches. Leafy greens can be expensive to buy and are often wasted as they quickly turn into 'sludge' in their bags *but...* they are really easy to grow and freeze for later if you ever find there is 'too much'. *Helpful Tip* : Most of the asian greens are best planted as seedlings. They are quick growing so great fillers. Other leafy greens such as rocket and lettuce are easy to scatter as seeds, just remember to repeat sow every few weeks for a continual supply.

It is also time to think about planting the Onion family (garlic, onions & leeks) this also includes a wonderful group of perennial alliums - Potato onions, Walking onions, Eschallots, Shallots and perennial Leeks. These multiplier alliums are really great additions to your garden as you plant one bulb and harvest up to a dozen! Best of all you can keep a few to replant next year and you don't have to rely on buying in seed or bulbs each year. Keep an eye out at your local nursery for bulbs or ask at your community garden. *How to plant:* They are a crop that doesn't like too much competition, so grow in a dedicated bed if possible. Prepare the bed a couple of weeks before planting by adding a light sprinkling of lime, some good organic compost and

a few handfuls of rockdust. Make sure the soil is moist when planting and work out how to fit the most cloves into your space - neat rows or block planting. Plant the cloves 10-15cm apart so they have room to grow and there is less space for weeds. *Helpful tip:* I hold off planting my garlic until after the Autumn equinox (21st) If you plant too early when the weather is still hot (above 25 degrees C) your cloves may bolt and reduce your useable crop yield.

What else can you plant now - *everything!*

Leaf crops Asian greens, Celery, Chicory, Cress, Endive, French sorrel, Lettuce, Mustard greens, Orach, Raddicchio, Rocket, Spinach, Silverbeet and Watercress. Brassica crops * plant Seedlings Broccoli, Broccoli Raab, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collard greens and Kale. Root crops Beetroot, Carrot, Celeric, Daikon, Kohlrabi, Parsnip, Potato, Radish, Salsify, Scorzonera, Swede and Turnip. Legume crops Broad Beans and Snow peas. Onion family Garlic, Leeks, Spring onions, Shallots and Salad onions. Herbs: Bay, Caraway, Chives, Chervil, Coriander, Fennel, Lemon Balm, Mint, Rosemary, Oregano, Parsley, Sage, Thyme, Salad Burnett, Strawberry runners.

Soil health is a hot topic and there has been a significant shift in thinking when it comes to how we manage soils when growing food. *Yes*, you can grow vegetables in the conventional way - using soil as the growing medium, then adding synthetic NPK fertilisers and the plants will grow. The Organic and Regenerative gardening spheres treat the soil as a living entity and focus on developing soil structure and feeding microbes rather than feeding plants. *Both methods will grow food and require inputs.* Not everyone's garden soil is perfect, especially if you are just starting out. Our Australian soils are ancient and degraded, many have been overused and are worn out. However, it is possible to bring them back to life and grow nutritious food - *everyone* has to add amendments and water to grow vegies in our climate. Homemade fertility options such as 'Weed Tea' or a solution of Worm castings are great additions but please remember that they are not complete fertilisers. Rock dust is an expensive but fantastic way to add nutrients to your plot - a little goes a long way, so it is worth the investment. Use what you feel comfortable with and what is affordable for you - *It is your garden!*

Until next month, Happy Preserving and Planting!

The first Sustainable Living Workshop for this year is on Thursday 12th March at the Dardanup Hall. Topic: **Patch from Scratch** - New to gardening - *No Problem!* Come along and learn how to get started designing and building your backyard vegie patch. Raised beds, wicking beds or a potted paradise - we will cover them all and where you can source materials. Growing your own is a great way to buffer the rising cost of vegies and with a little bit of planning you can enjoy an abundant harvest in no time. Bookings essential ph: **9724000** or on the website dardanup.wa.gov.au/events

Bunbury St. Patrick's Festival presents- the 150th Anniversary of the Catalpa Rescue

Dates: March 21 - 22, 2026

Saturday, March 21, 2026

- 10.00 AM - Gaelic Football Friendly Match
 - 12pm - Walking Tour at John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial
 - 5:00 PM - Evening of Music and Fun at The Prince Of Wales Hotel
 - 6pm - Riley Murphy and Oisín McGrath Duo
 - 7.30 - Craic'd
 - 9pm - Broken Pokers Big Irish Band
- Free entry

Sunday, March 22, 2026

- 10:00 AM - Catalpa, Coffee, Cúpla Focal- join us for a cuppa with some stories and Irish language at 62Thirty on Koombana bay.
- 2:00 PM - Talk by Jim Ryan at Bunbury Museum
- . Tickets via the Bunbury museum website. (Free, limited numbers)
- 4:00 PM - Traditional Irish Music Session at The Wellington Hotel

See Southwest Irish Community Group Facebook page or website for more information.



Dardanup Heritage Collective News The Mystery of the Disappearing Hall

A strange thing happened in 2023. A large wooden building that was once the Alexandra Hall at Wellington Mills went missing. And, it had already been gone for 104 years before anyone realized!

The Alexandra Hall opened at Wellington Mills in 1902 and had a final mention in a 1919 newspaper story. In conversations with local residents about the hall, for the past fifty or so years, it was always said the hall building had been transported to Elgin in the 1930s to be used as a hall there. That Hall remains to this day. However, when the Elgin Hall 90th anniversary committee was contacted in 2023 to remind them of its origins, it seems their own records showed the Elgin Hall was transported from Nannup (or Pemberton) and had not in fact come from Wellington Mills.

So, what happened to the Alexandra Hall? Where did it end up? Was it moved or scrapped and the timber re-used in another building? While the fate of many buildings from the old Mill town was known, this was definitely a mystery.

To read the full story, go to our website: dardanupheritagecollective.org.au, use the "Search" button (top right corner) and type in "Alexandra Hall".

If you would like to talk more about the work of the group, feel free to contact me, Janice Calcei 0402 783 019 or email us at dardanupheritagecollective@gmail.com

Janice Calcei



Is this old wooden building the Alexandra Hall?

Dardanup Catholic Church Services

Easter Church Services 2026

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Friday evenings 6pm Dardanup

Reconciliation

45 mins before & after Mass:

Saturday 14th & 21st March

5:00pm and 7:00pm

Sunday 15th & 22nd March

8:00am and 10:00am

Palm Sunday 29th March

9am Dardanup

No Vigil Mass on Saturday 28th March

Holy Thursday 2nd April

7pm Dardanup

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 3rd April Dardanup

10am Stations of the Cross

3pm The Passion of the Lord

Easter Vigil Mass 4th April

7.30pm Dardanup

Easter Sunday 5th April

9am Dardanup

Mass of the Resurrection

Why You Should Consider Advertising In The Dardanup Times

Dear Business Owner,
The Dardanup and Districts Residents Assoc Committee invites you to advertise your business in the Dardanup Times, a free, monthly, 16 page community newsletter, distributed around the 1st of the month and printed 11 times during the year. The December and January issues are combined. The Dardanup Times is read by over 875 families in the Dardanup townsite and localities.

Advertisements cost \$26 per month for coloured adverts and \$14 per month for black adverts in the white pages. Adverts can be changed at any time.

Free Included with your 1st advert - 250 words about your business and you

Enquires to jill.cross@bigpond.com

Advertisements are very important to the production of the Dardanup Times as not only are they advertising local businesses but they fund the production of the Dardanup Times.



Dardanup Community Choir

7pm Mondays at the
Ferguson Hall

Helen Humphreys | 0422 095 870 | hkhumphs@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Mahjong

Sponsored by the Shire of Dardanup.

Free to all residents.

Shire Office, Little St, Dardanup
2nd & 4th Wednesday 1.30 to 4.00 pm

Teachers in attendance

Revely Gardiner 0408833761

TRIP TO MOROCCO by Robyn Jones

In November 2025, Friend Julie and I set off to Morocco on a two week tour booked in late June 2025. We had always planned to go but saw a fantastic deal including flights so made the decision to go after checking in with our local Flight Centre in Eaton and finding there were only 2 tickets left!

We set off in our flight socks for the 22 hours of flying to get to Casablanca via Dubai where we met the eclectic group of 18 that we would be travelling with on our large and comfortable bus – all well-travelled Australians, youngest was 57 and the oldest was a gentleman turning 81, forming a friendly harmonious group according to Mustapha our Moroccan Guide originating from the Berber region in the Atlas Mountains – his previous two groups not so harmonious! Mustapha was very knowledgeable with excellent English and advised us on all things from Morocco's amazing multicultural history to our questions about the Muslim way of life and the changes from his parents' generation to his.

Casablanca was most notable for its magnificent Mosque commissioned by King Hassan II, designed by French Architect Michel Pinseau and built by over 10,000 Moroccan Artisans from all over the Kingdom between 1986 - 1993. It must have been a nightmare for the Architect wanting more simplicity as the King gave the Artisans almost free reign and the detail is incredible in the plasterwork, amazing tilework and handcrafted marble costing around \$500 million! It is the only mosque in Morocco allowing non-Muslim tourists inside and can fit 25 thousand worshippers and another 80 thousand in the surrounding paved area. The Mosque is partially built on land reclaimed from the sea with its minaret 60 stories high!

We then bussed up the coast to visit Rabat, the administrative capital of Morocco where we visited the Prime Ministers and Kings Offices, an ancient unfinished Mosque and adjacent Mausoleum of Mohammed V and his two Sons; late King Hassan II and Prince Abdallah. Yours truly was quite taken with the quality of the beautiful tilework in colourful Islamic patterns evident there and all of the royal palaces and buildings. We experienced our first trek through the old alleyways of the nearby Rabat fortress. Cats are everywhere and only a few dogs; dogs not encouraged by the Koran unless have a specific job for the family according to Mustapha.

We continued up the coast the following day in a clockwise circle up into the Rif Mountains and staying in Chefchaouen known for its blue doors. We spent time in the old part of the city (medina) with its huge wall encircling a lovely stone fortress, a mosque with the most exquisite hexagonal minaret (usually square) and gingerly negotiating the cobbled steep pathways made slippery by the couple of days of light rain. From here, we headed south towards Fez visiting the surprising Roman ruins of Volubilis with amazing drystone walls and columns, stone mosaic patterned floors and cobbled roads still visible.

Fez was my favourite city with its old medina a rabbit warren of over 9400 alleyways - Mustapha didn't let us linger long in case we got lost! The shops catering to the locals were fascinating including shops beating out copper utensils, making filo pastry and butcher shops with camels' feet and even a camel head! We visited the entrance of their Royal Palace with the Jewish quarter next door – a good exercise in looking at the difference in the architecture. We had lunch in a lovely old Riad of traditional Islamic architecture with rooms off a central courtyard – it was quite an adventure just getting there through the alleyways, some just fitting one person through at a time! We also saw traditional methods of producing Moroccan pottery and tilework with a birds eye view of a large smelly tannery for the local leather industry.

From here, we continued our bus trip experiencing the joyless roadside restaurant food although I (alone) did take up the Guides advice to try the camel tagine (stew finished off in the pottery dish with the high distinctive lid) at one particular restaurant - which was much like slow cooked beef and a great start to the many many tagines on offer for the rest of the trip. The mint tea at the hotels was

good but bitter and overbrewed on the road however surprisingly good strong coffee. Occasionally you would even see a little van at a cross roads with the back doors open housing their barrista coffee machine. It was fascinating to see the variety of agriculture ranging from grain production to olive and orange groves, grazing of sheep, cattle and camels and the use of donkeys and carts as we headed to Rissani and Merzouga close to the inland border of Algeria.

Here we experienced the edge of the Western Sahara Desert which was very dry having no significant rain for 2 years. We glamped amongst the huge sand dunes after a day being entertained by local musicians, lunch and four-wheel driving through the desert, meeting a traditional nomadic family and their tent accommodation for some fresh mint tea. I found myself hanging on for dear life on a camel ride at sunset and appreciating the night sky back at camp.

Boarding the large and comfortable bus, we headed towards Marrakesh, I loved the alien landscape of the Atlas Mountains, passing through long oases of date plantations, ancient aqueducts and the many uninhabited ancient Berber rammed earth ruins and fortresses, appreciating the Moroccan way of preserving their heritage. We stayed overnight in a little hotel in Todra Gorge walking the bottom of the highest and narrowest section of gorge in Morocco and a Quarzazate Hotel built next to a now defunct movie set studio that was charged by the minute to Movies such as Gladiator and The Mummy.

We stayed in Marrakesh for 3 days visiting the Bahia Palace; loving the amazing mosaic tilework in the walls and ceilings and plenty of free time visiting the main touristy marketplace and testing out bargaining skills particularly with the taxi drivers! My favourite activities was a cooking class in a traditional private home in the old city (here were the spices I had been expecting!), a spectacular hot air balloon ride at sunrise and a traditional Hammam (black soap wash and exfoliating scrub) and massage before leaving for Casablanca and the long flight home.

I thoroughly recommend the Moroccan experience realising it is two very long air flights, a bus tour covering a lot of area and having to watch carefully what you eat and drinking only bottled water even to clean your teeth! I came away appreciating the ancient history and culture in Morocco and also feeling lucky for our way of life in Australia.

Eds Note; fascinating trip Robyn and one to include on the bucket list. Thankyou for sharing.



Move Over the Socceros Have We Got A Game For You!

Be there on Sunday 15 March to cheer on Eaton/ Dardanup Mens Football Division 1 Team as they play one of WA's biggest Clubs – East Perth Football Club. East Perth are equivalent to 8 Divisions above EDFC so definitely the underdogs. They are going to rely on your cheering to get them through. Kick off is 1.00pm at Wells Recreation Park

What's on In Dardanup

2 March – Dardanup Art Spectacular Art Entries Open
 3 March – Mens Welfare Group – 2pm at the Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms
 4 March – Lions Lego Social Club, 10-12 @ the Dardanup Library
 6 March – Ferguson Hall Sundowner, 6pm, see details this edition
 11 March – Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival AGM, 7.30pm at Wells Clubrooms
 11 March – Mahjong at the Shire office, free, 1.30- 4.00pm
 11 March – Lions Lego Social Club, 10-12 @ the Dardanup Library
 12 March - Sustainable Living Workshop @ the Dardanup Hall. Topic: Patch from Scratch - Bookings essential ph: 9724000 or on the website dardanup.wa.gov.au/events
 17 March - Dardanup Seniors meeting, 9.30am, Wells Rec Park Clubrooms
 17 March- Mens Welfare Group – 2pm at Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms
 17 March - Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm
 18 March - Lions Lego Social Club, 10-12 @ the Dardanup Library
 22 March - Boyanup Farmers Market, 8am
 25 March – Mahjong at the Shire office, free, 1.30- 4.00pm
 25 March - Lions Lego Social Club, 10-12 @ the Dardanup Library
 28 March – Dardanup / Brunswick Lions Auction @ Wells Recreation Park
 29 March - Philharmonic SW Orchestra Ferguson Valley Music Trail, see poster this edition
 31 March- Chair Yoga organised by the Shire of Dardanup @ Wells Clubrooms, free, 1-2pm
 10 April – Dardanup Art Spectacular Art Entries Close
 10 April – Ferguson Hall Comm AGM, 5pm
 1 May – Opening Night Dardanup Art Spectacular
 2/3 May – Dardanup Art Spectacular Exhibition and Art Trail
 16 May – Dardy Party Time @ the Dardanup Hall – Save the Date, hosted by the Dardanup and Districts Residents Assoc and organised by the community

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 CRICKET CLUB

Coming back after the Christmas break is always hard! But our Dardy Bushrangers have got back into the swing of it! Training nights are full of young & old, Juniors are there from 4.30, filling the nets and our Seniors continue on until dark. It's been a lovely atmosphere down at the club. If you have thought about having a hit or a bowl why not come down and join in, we are always looking for fill ins or just the local community to get together and have a chat with mates, new or old.

SENIORS

Our seniors finished the weekend before Christmas with E grade bringing home a great win, Dardanup 1/201 to Dalyellup Orange 6/200. The boys enjoyed the game & the win! No games are scheduled over January due to Country Week in Perth, first game back was 31st January 2026 with two double headers. The first game E grade came so very close to another win, going down to Dalyellup 2/94 to 7/92. C grade lost aswell with 10/151 to Burekup 5/169. The second game E grade had a close win beating Bunbury Eagles 5/66 to 10/62. C grade lost to Hay Park 8/101 to 6/103, again another close game. The weekend 7th & 8th Feb saw our C grade side have a good win 9/214 against Rising Stars 10/189, unfortunately E grade couldn't do the same losing to Rising Stars.

On the Sunday we played our Annual Pink Stumps Day against Burekup, two T20 games saw Dardanup bring home the Grub Cup, a huge shout out to David Wells & Grubs from Burkeup CC who put this together every year in support of the McGrath Foundation. It's always a great day watching the old legend of the game come out of retirement for a hit of cricket! Saturday 14th Feb we unfortunately couldn't get a win across the line, C grade losing to Marist 9/131 to 10/170. Our E grade side had some help from our Junior players Dads and one of our Juniors, Bodhi Smedley. We were a bit short, but in true community spirit our Dads stepped up for a bit of a run with the boys and they had a great day in the field, the kids come along to watch, it was a great family feel! Something we would love to see more of. Score didn't go our way, with Eaton making our run total within 26.3 overs.

Photo of the dads and kids here, L to R: Bodhey & Jeremy Smedley, Milton, Andrew & Finlay Allen, Ben & Harrison Cooper, Corey & River Dillon

JUNIORS

Our Juniors came back after a long holiday break on 7th February, all were very excited to get back into it. Our year 6 Dardanup Green team played Leschenault Wombats, bringing home a great win 140 to 107. Dardanup Gold played Dalyellup Grammer with a good win also, 137 to 98. Our Year 7's had a double header, Sat 7th Feb at home against Marist, winning 8/137 to 8/68 and Sunday 8th at Burekup against Burekup winning 8/115 to 8/91. Saturday 14th Feb Year 6's Green played Marist and had a great close game, just getting over the line 121 to 117. Dardanup Gold unfortunately wasn't so lucky losing to Harvey-Binningup 159 to 98. Our Year 7's played Colts at home, going down 8/106 to 8/140.

We don't have many games left of the season, so keep an eye on our social media pages for game results every week for those wanting to keep up to date.



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



Dardanup Cricket Club
dardanup.cricketclub@outlook.com



DARDANUP AND BRUNSWICK



Agricultural Auction and Clearing Sale

28th March 2026 @ Wells Recreation park, Dardanup

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF SURPLUS FARM AND SMALL HOLDING EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS
consignment sale opportunities also available

For more Information please contact

Dardanup: Rob Webster - 0417 900 008

Dardanup.wa@lions.org.au

Brunswick: Mark Talbot - 0419 261 959

Brunswicklionsclub@gmail.com



Dardanup Cricket Club recently replaced their pitch and isn't it looking wonderful. Dardanup Year 6 Junior Cricketers think so! L to R, Max Smith, Harrison Cooper and Tanner Cutts Giving the New Pitch a Try Out. The new pitch cost \$6000.00 and was funded in the main by Dardanup Cricket Club with the Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival Committee and Dardanup and Districts Residents Assoc also kicking in some funds.

The Dardanup Times thanks our generous sponsors



Autumn in the Garden
 @ Thommo's
FREE FAMILY EVENT
 Kids activities & fairy

GARDEN WORKSHOPS
 with Wink Lindsay from Aquila Food Forest

SEEDLING & PLANT SALE
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
PRESERVES
BAKED GOODS
ARTS & CRAFTS
MARKET STALLS
LAUGHTER YOGA
COFFEE VAN
RAFFLE & More!

Live Music 'Arid Zoners'

9AM - 1PM
SATURDAY
28TH MARCH
 No dogs please

CASH ONLY
 we've got worms! (for sale)

Thommo's Community Garden
 152 Robertson Drive, Glen Iris

PHILHARMONIC SOUTH WEST ORCHESTRA
 Presents
Ferguson Valley Music Trail

Enjoy a day of chamber music across Ferguson Valley's finest venues, culminating in a full orchestral performance at Saint Aidan Wines.

Ferguson Falls Wines and Cafe 10 am
Thomas Little Memorial Hall 10:30am
Ferguson Hall 11:30am
St Aidan Church 12:30pm
Saint Aidan Wines 3pm (Full Orchestra)

Conductor Izaac Wesson
Sunday
29th March 2026

For ticket information please visit **pswo.com.au**

SPONSORS:
 PAA FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING & ADVISORY
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 BUNBURY
 UMBRELLA REALTY
 St Aidan

Ferguson Hall Sundowner
 Friday 6 March | 6pm
 Meet us at the Ferguson Hall | BYO drinks and nibbles
 We'd love to see you there!

EVERYONE WELCOME

DARDANUP BULL & BARREL FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE

Opening Night Fri 1st May
 Trail Sat & Sun 2/3rd May 2026

DARDANUP art SPECTACULAR

Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival's AGM
 Wednesday 11 March 7.30pm
 Wells Recreation Park Clubrooms, Dardanup

Come along and help us plan this year's Festival! Whether you're full of fresh ideas, keen to get involved, or simply want to support this fantastic community event – we'd love to see you there.

Drinks and nibbles provided

We're looking for enthusiastic community members with fresh ideas and a passion for helping make this year's Festival even bigger and better.

Enq Jill 0418 281 201, info@bullandbarrel.net.au