

Shire News

TRONOX SPRING OUT RETURNS WITH COLOURFUL TWIST

Spring will be in full swing when the annual Tronox Spring Out Festival returns to the Eaton Foreshore on Sunday, 1 November 2026, featuring a vibrant new fancy dress competition alongside a program packed with family-friendly fun.

Hosted by the Shire of Dardanup in partnership with Tronox, the free family-friendly festival will once again transform the Eaton Foreshore into a hub of entertainment, activities and community connection.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said this year's event marks a move from its traditional late October timeslot to the first Sunday in November, with organisers looking forward to embracing the best of the South West's spring weather.

Cr Gardiner said festival-goers can once again enjoy all their favourite attractions, including food trucks, children's entertainment, live performances, interactive activities and plenty of free family fun throughout the morning.

Adding a fresh twist to the 2026 event is the introduction of a Fancy Dress Fashion Parade and Competition, with residents of all ages encouraged to unleash their creativity and arrive dressed as their favourite character, hero, profession or imaginative creation.

"The Tronox Spring Out Festival has become a much-loved event on our community calendar, bringing people together to celebrate spring, connect with friends and neighbours, and enjoy a fantastic morning at the Eaton Foreshore," Cr Gardiner said.

"Alongside the fancy dress competition, festival-

goers can enjoy all the favourites they've come to know and love, including food trucks, children's entertainment, live performances, interactive activities and a fantastic community atmosphere."

Tronox Site Director Ian Rennie said the company was pleased once again to partner with the Shire of Dardanup to support an event that brings the community together.

"Events like Spring Out create opportunities for people to come together, celebrate their community and enjoy the best of what the South West has to offer," Mr Rennie said.

"As a long-time member of the community, Tronox is proud to support initiatives that build strong, connected communities where our team members and their families live and work.

"We're especially looking forward to seeing the creativity and enthusiasm people bring to the new fancy dress competition and what promises to be another great day on the foreshore."

The Shire also acknowledges the generous support of Lotterywest, whose funding has helped enhance this year's festival and ensure the event remains accessible and enjoyable for the whole community.

The 2026 Tronox Spring Out Festival will be held on Sunday, 1 November 2026, from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the Eaton Foreshore.

Scan the QR code or visit the Tronox Spring Out Festival 2026 Facebook event page and hit going to stay up to date on all things Spring Out.



Eaton Drive road works

The Shire of Dardanup will undertake road improvement works on two sections of Eaton Drive during September. Works will take place between 14 and 23 September. Works will include pavement repairs, asphalt resurfacing and new line marking, with traffic management in place. Motorists are asked to follow directions and allow extra travel time.

Linux Install Fest

Discover the world of free, open-source software at Linux Install Fest on Sunday, 20 September from 10am-3pm at the Make-It Space, Eaton. Try different Linux operating systems, get expert advice, learn basic workflows, play PC games or BYO computer and get help installing Linux. All ages and experience levels are welcome, with drop-ins encouraged. Bookings are required for installation assistance. Contact (08) 9724 0478 for more information.

Women's Wellness Morning

All women are invited to a free Wellness Morning at Eaton Sports Club on Tuesday, 6 October from 9.30am-11.30am. Enjoy yoga, mindfulness and morning tea while connecting with others and learning about free screening programs and other helpful health information. Yoga mats are provided; please bring a towel. Email your RSVP to RCPCsouthwest@cancerwa.asn.au.

Think Outside the Box

Join a free community conversation about end-of-life planning, grief support and the services available to help you prepare for life's final chapter. Think Outside the Box will be held at Eaton Community Hive on Thursday, 8 October from 10am-1pm, offering a relaxed space to ask questions. RSVPs are required and can be made by contacting (08) 9722 5311 or visiting trybooking.com/DOXQN.

Recieve your rates via email

Want to go paperless? Sign up to e-rates via the QR code below.

You'll need your Assessment Number from your Rates Notice.



Meeting dates for 2026

The Shire of Dardanup's 2026 Ordinary Council Meetings (OCM) are held once a month on Wednesdays at 5pm.

The next OCM is on Wednesday, 23 September in the Council Chambers. Other council meeting dates for 2026 are below:

- 28 October.
- 18 November.
- 16 December.

Copies of all agendas and minutes can be accessed on the Shire's website under "Council Meetings". Our monthly OCMs are also recorded and available on our website.

EXCITING CHANGES ARE COMING TO EATON RECREATION CENTRE!

Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram.



BUSHFIRE SERVICE HONOUR FOR CHRIS

A lifetime of service to the community has earned Chris Hynes the highest honour available to a Bush Fire Service volunteer, with the Shire of Dardanup's Chief Bush Fire Control Officer awarded the prestigious Murray Lang Bushfire Service Award.

The award recognises volunteers who have gone above and beyond in their service and made an exceptional contribution to the Bush Fire Service over the past 12 months.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said the award was a fitting recognition of Mr Hynes' decades of commitment to protecting the community and supporting volunteers.

"Chris has dedicated 40 years of his life to serving others, often in challenging and dangerous conditions, and this award is a reflection of the extraordinary contribution he has made to our community," Cr Gardiner said.

"His leadership, knowledge and commitment to supporting our brigades and volunteers are second to none.

"Volunteers like Chris are the backbone of our emergency services.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have someone of his calibre leading our bush fire brigades, and this award highlights the impact one person can have through a lifetime of service."

Mr Hynes said he was honoured to

receive the award and acknowledged the support of his family throughout his volunteering journey.

"I was honoured to be nominated and selected as a finalist, and then to receive the award was great," he said.

"The support I get from my wife Sandy and my two sons makes it easier, with all the disruptions to family life over the years, away chasing fires, organising crews and training."

Mr Hynes joined the Bush Fire Service more than four decades ago, drawn by the opportunity to be part of a team helping others in times of need.

"I wasn't into sports but being part of a team that responded to problems most people run from appealed to me," he said.

"The fire brigade was the right fit, learning new skills and putting

those skills to good use."

Reflecting on his long service, Mr Hynes said mentoring fellow volunteers had been one of the most rewarding aspects of the role.

"I'm most proud of mentoring members, new and old, to take on roles they didn't think they were ready for and being part of something that has a positive effect in the community," he said.

As Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Mr Hynes oversees the Shire's eight volunteer bush fire brigades and works closely with neighbouring local governments and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to ensure brigades are equipped, trained and ready to respond when needed.

He encouraged others to consider volunteering, saying it offered valuable skills, leadership opportunities and lifelong friendships while making a real difference in the community.



Shire of Dardanup Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Chris Hynes (left) and Cr Tyrrell Gardiner.

NEXTGEN SKILLS SET TO EQUIP YOUTH FOR LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

Young people aged 14 to 17 can get hands-on, build practical skills and explore future career pathways during the Shire's free NextGen Skills Week during the school holidays on 6, 7 and 9 October.

NextGen Skills Week will offer a series of interactive workshops designed to give young people practical experience in everything from construction and workplace safety to smartphone photography.

With all sessions free to attend, the program provides an opportunity for participants to try something new, build confidence and gain skills they can take with them beyond the classroom.

Get hands-on with carpentry, bricklaying and plumbing, while learning from industry professionals and discovering potential career pathways in the building and construction industry.

Learn the basics of working at heights and confined spaces, including workplace safety, equipment and practical skills used across the construction industry.

Turn your phone into a creative tool with simple photography tips and techniques to help you capture better photos and build your confidence behind the camera. Scan the QR code for more information and bookings.

