



September 2023

SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS

Please also see our user friendly website at <https://www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au> or
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YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



From the Shire President: Pauline Bantock



September has arrived and I can't believe how quickly the weeks fly by at this time of year. In fact, the years are zooming by, as I reflect on my 8 years within our Shire Council.

Meetings continue to fill my calendar and it's exciting to see our Shire become productive and proactive amongst the active groups. From the WALGA Avon Midland Zone meeting to the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils (AROC). Victoria Plains works closely with our surrounding Shire's to achieve regional objectives. I particularly enjoyed attending the North West Wheatbelt District Emergency Management event together with our CEO Sean and Community Emergency Services Manager Nic. It was an opportunity to plan for the emergencies we hope never to have in our district. We undertook a simulation event regarding an ammonium nitrate truck fire and evacuation. This was very fitting, considering our Shire experienced such an event recently. It gave me great confidence that our Shire team and local volunteers are looking after us so well.

FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

I'm pleased to inform the community, that Council has undertaken a review of the CEO's probationary period and assessed Mr Fletcher's performance as exceeding expectations. Council has adopted six Key Performance Indicators that our CEO will be appraised on, with the next review scheduled for Feb 2024.

Council weighed in on the Albanese Government's planned phase out of live sheep exports. We supported NEWROC's (North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils) advocacy to the Federal Minister for Agriculture and our Local Member. The agenda item noted the flow on effect the proposed phase out will have on communities and businesses. It is clear the live sheep export market is very important to the WA economy and in terms of the diversification that agriculture needs overall.

Council also provided feedback to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation regarding the draft scoping document for the Caravel Copper Mine project and the proposed Gillingarra bore field. This is the very early stages of a lengthy assessment timeline, and the community should expect the opportunity to provide feedback on the public version in early 2024. At this point in time Council has advised the Department of any investigations that we see as relevant and whether there are specific formats in which the results of studies and investigations need to be presented during the environmental review. Council is expecting a briefing from Caravel in the near future.

At the August meeting, Council also considered the eQuote submissions from contractors for roadworks on the Mogumber-Yarawindah Rd. 7.98km of the road will see a complete upgrade under the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network. Just over \$3.2 million is budgeted for the upgrade and the Shire has obtained funding for 93.33% of the costs thanks to the State and Federal Governments support of the WSNF.

Kind Regards,

Cr. Pauline Bantock
Shire President

From the Chief Executive Officer: Sean Fletcher



Shire Elections October 2023

As many would be aware by now, the Shire is not having a general spill this election. Instead, we have now been advised that the councillors that have terms expiring in 2025 will continue. The number of vacancies for this election has been reduced from four to two. This will give us a total number of five councillors post the election.

In terms of process, the Shire is now in caretaker mode until after the elections. This means that no major decisions can be made either by Council or my staff and I. However, matters that were already underway prior to the caretaker period can continue. An example of a major decision is consideration of planning applications.

Further details regarding the election can be found on the Shire's website.

What Happens After the Elections?

Prior to the first Council meeting, which is on 25 October 2023, I will swear in the two elected councillors. At the meeting, councillors will then be allocated to various committees and representative bodies.

What I Have Been Up To

Much of my time has been spent involved in key meetings in other places, some of these with the Shire President and other elected members, advocating for resources, putting across the Shire's view on key issues and preparing for emergencies. This has seen representation at:

- Wheatbelt North Regional Road Group in Northam. At the latest meeting, Main Roads provided an update on not just its maintenance program but key road upgrades and improvements. The matter of reducing speed limits for Bolgart was also addressed. I will now be writing formerly to Main Roads on this matter;
- Avon Midland Regional Zone in Moora. The President and I were able to participate in key discussions regarding total fire bans including being able to undertake key road works during such bans and reducing the red tape regarding the level of reporting required during such bans and appreciated presentations by WA Country Health including the future for country health and the latest update from CBH;
- Avon Regional Organisation of Councils. AROC consists of Northam, Goomalling, Toodyay, York and Victoria Plains. During our recent meetings we have progressed matters regarding the housing shortage, protection of the environment and waste management.

Apart from the above, I have had ongoing meetings with Main Roads and CBH regarding the Calingiri New Norcia Road and Toodyay Bindi Bindi Road intersection. Silvio and I have also had ongoing discussions with the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network that will see the commencement of works in the next couple weeks as we roll out works on the Mogumber yarawindah road at a cost of \$3.2M.

The President and I have also had meetings with Caravel Minerals, which has included attending a recent information session regarding the proposed Gillingarra Bore Field.

My wife and I and our grandson also popped along to the Piawaining Expo. We found it to be a great day out and a big thank you to Shire staff who manned our gazebo again this year.

Kind Regards,

Sean Fletcher

From the Deputy Chief Executive Officer: Colin Ashe



The new Financial Year is now starting to ramp up as the various streams of revenue is received, bolstering the shire's municipal account and allowing much of the major expenditure to progress from the planning / quotation stage to implementation. Some of the main road construction tenders has now been accepted and works will commence shortly.

Replacement of the shires computer operating system through a competitive quotation process has also commenced in the planning stage which will also bring its IT to a more contemporary status. The current system is well past its use by date by probably 15 years and the new system will bring considerable efficiencies to staff time, address a number of potential cyber security issues and set the shire up for the future systems as we head towards more paperless and artificial intelligence (AI) systems.

FINANCE:

- Auditors will be on site at the shire from the 26 Sep 23 to commence the audit process of 2022-23 financial statements. Staff have been preparing the information and evidence gathering for some weeks and the team does not expect any adverse findings.
- Rates notices were issued on the 01 Aug 23 with the first payment in full or by instalments due on the 05 Sep 23. By all accounts a good portion has been received but if you are having difficulty making the payment, please contact the shire office for a confidential discussion.
- The 2023-24 budget presentation has been scheduled in Bolgart and Mogumber on the 11 and 12 Sep 23 respectively. Whilst this date will have past in the edition of this newsletter, the presentation is available upon request from the shire office and I would be happy to discuss any queries or points of clarification. An interesting fact from this is the source of revenue to the shire. Whilst rates make up a significant portion, overall it represents 25% as depicted below:

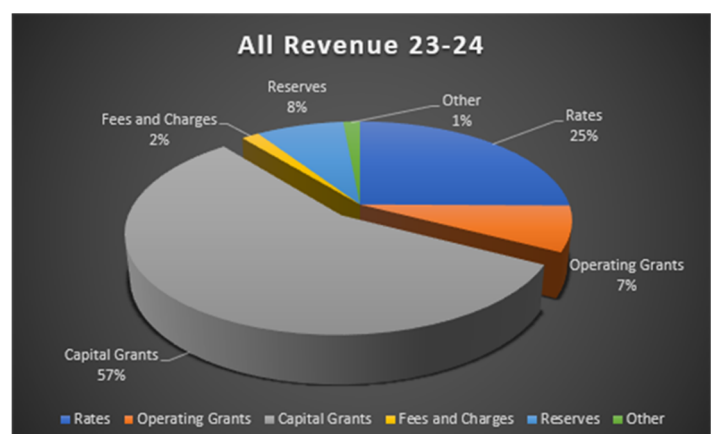
ADMINISTRATION:

- Department of Transport licencing is now in full swing at the shire with the team, from what I have seen, being very competent in delivering this service now. Of course there are still the normal queries that require them to seek assistance from the helpdesk but overall it is running very smoothly.
- Included in the budget is the implementation of activities that will assist in the mapping of grave sites in the official cemeteries within the shire. This will include high quality drone imagery of the cemetery, GPS coordinates, headstone details and linking existing records. The end result should see a high quality of records that in time will integrate with the shires computer operating system and provide a portal for users to access these records.
- The shire will be participating in R U OK day on the 14 Sep which is our national day of action when we remind Australians that every day is the day to ask, 'are you OK?' and start a meaningful conversation whenever they spot the signs that someone they care about might be struggling with life. If you need more information, please jump on the website or contact the shire. More importantly though, we don't need a specific day to this – look after your mates everyday and ask if they are okay when you spot the signs.

At the time of writing a number of the Calingiri (Victoria Plains) sporting clubs have made the finals and grand final of which a couple of the staff play on. Without putting the mockers on them I wish them the best of luck going into the big dance!

Staff – expect extra work on Monday if you don't win (no pressure of course!).

Kind Regards,
Colin Ashe
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



From the Manager—Works and Services: Silvio Brenzi



Contractors have completed vegetation clearances on Old Telegraph and Bolgart West Roads due to Roads to Recovery funding secured in 2020/2021. This will allow for gravel re-sheeting and some widening on Old Telegraph Rd. Shire staff will complete these works over the coming weeks. Large trees and areas that did not impact on road safety have been left untouched. (picture)

Shire staff have commenced preliminary work on the New Norcia/ Toodyay Bindi-Bindi Intersection with the removal of the vegetation and topsoil in readiness for contractors to commence the base course and seal works. This will be done once quotations are received and reviewed over the next month or so. (picture)

September the 18th will be the start of works on the Mogumber -Yarrawindah Rd which commences about 5 km from Mogumber and will encompass about 8 km of total rebuild to a 8 meter wide stabilised subgrade and sealed surface as part of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network program. It is expected that works will take two to three months and traffic control will be in place during these works. Drainage will also commence this week with a crossing near Cocking Rd.

Kind regards,

Silvio Brenzi

Manager - Works and Services



From the Community Development Officers: Kim Stripe and Katrina Humphries



With only 3 months left of the year, it is flying by so quickly.

As of the 13th of September, we have had to say goodbye to Kim and I am officially in the role of Community Development Officer. I am super excited about this role, and I am looking forward to working with our community and having input from you all as to what things people would love to see happening.

I have been left with plenty of tips & instructions from Kim to carry on with her great work that she had done for the Shire, and am busy with working on Grants that are already open or coming up.

The Goomalling to Yerecoin Art Trail Project is now underway for the month of September and we have some lovely art displayed from local community members at Bolgart, Calingiri & Yerecoin for our Shire.

We also attended the Piawaning Expo that was held on the 2nd of September. It was a great day out for us with lots of new people to meet, seeing plenty of familiar faces of our community supporting the Piawaning Expo and getting to watch the spectacular fireworks.

Kind Regards,
Katrina Humphries
Community Development Officer

With only just a few days to go, my time with Shire of Victoria Plains is running out.

It's going to be a sad time for me as I say goodbye to the many friends I have made both in the workplace and the Community. It's not a decision I have made lightly as I am leaving to be closer to my parents who are relying on me more and more for assistance. I am however leaving you all in good hands. Katrina Humphries has taken the reigns and is doing a fantastic job already. Katrina has many new ideas and talents and is a great choice for the position.

I would sincerely like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to take on the role and the wonderful support you have all given me.

You have given me confidence and hope each and every day and I have enjoyed my time with you all immensely.

I am hoping you will keep in touch and if you ever find yourself in Mandurah please give me a call so we can meet for a coffee or a drink somewhere.

This photo of me in cuffs taken at the Youth 4 Youth event just about sums me up so you will remember me as someone who loves an adventure.

Kind Regards,
Kim Stripe
Community Development Officer



Employee Focus: Bridget Moore

Customer Service Officer



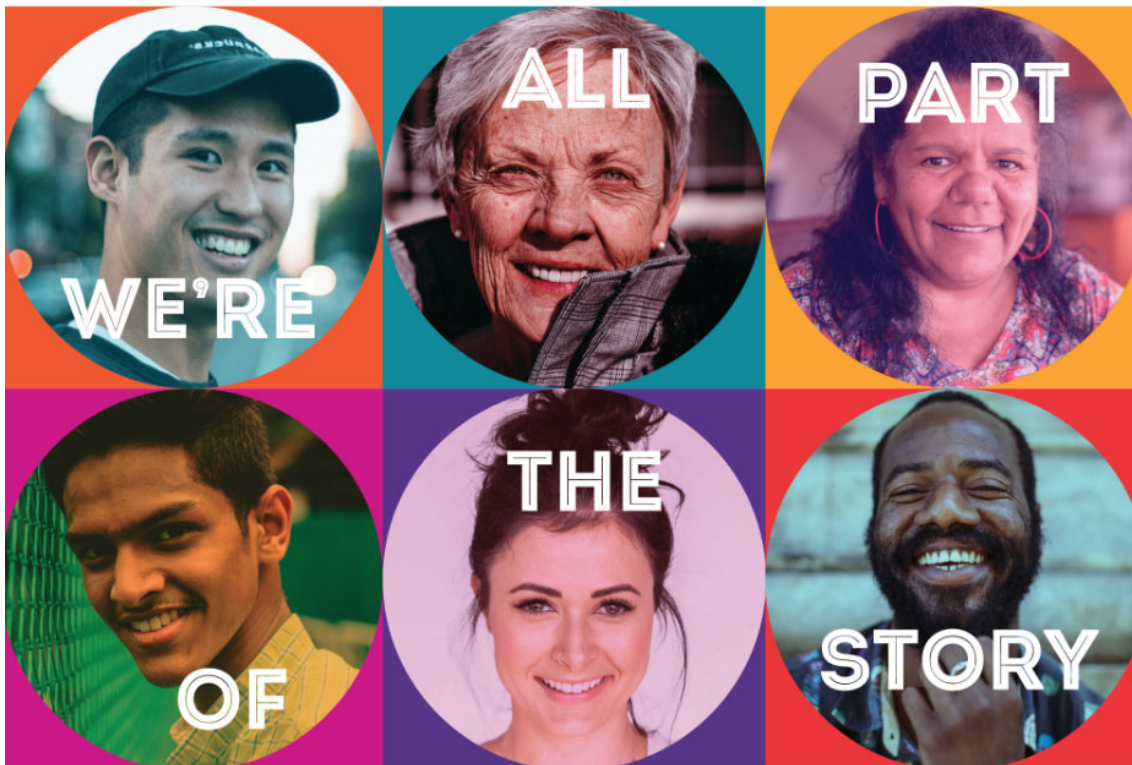
I have lived in the Shire of Victoria Plains for the last 13 years.

In Calingiri then Bolgart. I love living in a small community where everyone looks out for each other. I enjoy playing Golf in Bolgart and until recently I enjoyed helping out at the Bolgart Library. I also volunteer for St Johns Ambulance and like supporting our community through that.

My down time is taken up with spending time with my children and friends, reading, board games, swimming, wildflower walks, dancing, painting and cooking. There is almost always music coming from our house whenever anyone is home as I have instilled a love for an array of different music types and ages in my kids. I love to give things a go even if I'm not very good at it.

I grew up in the Miling / Moora area and have worked in a lot of different jobs from office work to farming, swimming teaching and customer service. The last 5 years I have enjoyed working at Boshack running school camps and helping out at the Bolgart Primary School. I am enjoying working in a team that is very customer focused and helping to improve our community for everyone.

If you would like to contact me please call 96 287 004 or email bridget.moore@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au



Nominate now



St John the Baptist Anglican Church Calingiri

Welcome ALL to attend the last service.

Sunday 29th October 2023 11 am

Held by Reverend Rae

The Church Building will be Deconsecrated on 19th November 2023

There will be an afternoon tea held at 2 pm



BOLGART ROCKS

SOCIAL/SUPPER DANCE
BOLGART MEMORIAL HALL
ROCK'N ROLL COUNTRY &
BALLROOM

SATURDAY

28TH OCTOBER

7.30 PM - 11.30 PM

LIGHT SUPPER KINDLY PROVIDED BY
BOLGART CWA LADIES
BYO DRINKS



MUSIC BY
DJ DAVID DEW
SQUARE DANCE
DEMONSTRATION
RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZE

TICKETS; ADULTS \$20

CONCESSION : \$17

CHILDREN: \$10

UNDER 10: FREE ENTRY

ENQUIRIES/BOOKINGS 0488 733 351

OR BOLGARTPROGRESS@GMAIL.COM

PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT

BOLGART MEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP



INVITING
EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST

TO PREPARE MEALS ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS IN OUR
MODERN AND WELL EQUIPPED COMMERCIAL KITCHEN
FELXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS AVAILABLE

LEASE
HIRE

WORK FOR WAGES

ALL OFFERS CONSIDERED

ENQUIRIES TO DELINA HAYWOOD 0427 291 454

goomallingscc.chairperson@gmail.com



OUR BUSINESS
HOURS ARE
CHANGING FROM
OCTOBER 2ND.
WE WILL BE OPEN
FROM 7AM - 5PM
CLOSED EVERY
SECOND FRIDAY
FIRST FRIDAY
CLOSED
6TH OCTOBER

CALINGIRI AUTO CENTRE

- Log Book Servicing On ALL Makes and Models
- Minor and Major Repairs to all your light vehicles and light trucks
 - Tyres & Batteries
 - 4x4 Accessories: Supply & Fitting
- Service & Repairs on all small engines, gensets to motorbikes. Everything in between
 - Windscreen Replacement
 - Air conditioning service & repairs
- Loan car available, if needed please enquire with your booking

0499 206 527

6 CAVELL STREET CALINGIRI WA 6569

CALINGIRIAUTOCENTRE@OUTLOOK.COM

AU 58157

ABN 60537135800

MRB 10826



St John

Shining a spotlight on St John WA Volunteers

In the spirit of honoring those who selflessly dedicate their time to serve and protect our community, we proudly shine a spotlight on the exceptional volunteers of St John WA. Their unwavering commitment and dedication were on full display at the recent St John WA Annual State Conference and Awards Ceremony. At this remarkable event, we had the privilege of acknowledging the remarkable journey of our volunteers, some of whom have tirelessly served St John WA for an incredible 10 to 55 years! Their journey is not just a testament to their unwavering commitment, but also an inspiration for us all.

Congratulations to Our Victoria Plains Sub Branch Legends

- **John Young**
- **Jane Graham**
- **Nicole McInnes**
- **Gavin Halligan**

Your dedication and contributions to the community have left an indelible mark. You are the true legends among us, and we are immensely grateful for your selflessness. Please join us in expressing our deepest gratitude to these volunteers for their

incredible contributions. Their stories serve as a powerful reminder that together, we can make a positive impact on the lives of those around us. As we celebrate their achievements, let us all be inspired to find ways, big or small, to give back to our community and follow in the footsteps of these remarkable volunteers.



Ready to make a difference?



St John Volunteer



St John

Upcoming first aid course

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

Course type: Accredited | **Duration:** 1 day in class + Online learning

Price: \$170.00

When: Thursday 21 September - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Where: St John WA - Calingiri Sub Branch, Yulgering Rd, Calingiri WA 6569



Understand first aid

Learn about first aid theory and action plans



CPR and defibrillation

Practise CPR skills and how to apply a defibrillator.



Injury management

Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



Ready to make a difference?

Book a first aid course with us



St John First Aid Training

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd. RTO Code: 0392





YERECOIN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Year 4-6 Camp with Koorda PS at Ern Halliday, 14th - 18th August



Perth Mint



FUNDRAISING

Sincere thanks to the Yerecoin P&C / Tennis Club for the fun filled Quiz Night held on Saturday, 19th August 2023.

AUSTRALIAN MATHS COMPETITION



Maxwell - Distinction



Eilidh - Credit

PIAWANING expo

Congratulations to the following winners of the recent Piawaning Expo School Colouring-In Competition.

1st Leo Glass / 2nd Georgia Glass / 3rd Beau Gale
Highly commended: Austin Kilpatrick.





NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION CUTOFF

Newsletter submissions are due by 4:00pm on the last Friday of the month.

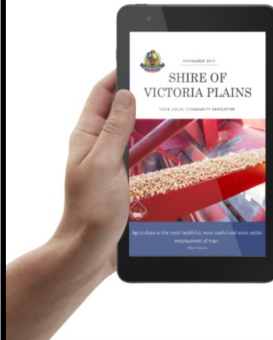
All submissions to be emailed to:
candice.watson@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Late submissions may not be accepted.

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Did you know the Shire offers digital copies of the Newsletter?

Simply email reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au to register for a digital copy.



Ordinary Council Meeting

Will be held
Wednesday

27th September 2023
Commencing at 2:00pm in the
Calingiri Council Chambers

SEPTEMBER 14TH 2023

I'M HERE TO HEAR



4 steps of an R U OK? conversation



Local Containers for Change Member numbers accepting donations

Calingiri Primary School P&C Association—C10344336

Yerecoin Primary School P&C Association—C10283746

Bolgart Primary School P&C Association—C10324137

Mogumber Outback Club—C10671492

Gillingarra Sport & Recreation Club—C10291910

Calingiri Sports Club—C10232342

Are your Firebreaks Ready?

The Shire of Victoria Plains will be performing inspections and issuing notices to non compliant landowners/occupiers. Please make sure your firebreaks are compliant by the 1st of October 2023.

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY BY 1 OCTOBER ANNUALLY

Notice is given to all landowners/occupiers within the Shire of Victoria Plains to comply with required before 1 October Annually to comply with the directives of the s. 33 Fire Hazard Reduction Notice to reduce the outbreak, spread and extension of a bushfire, these standards must be maintained throughout until 29 March Annually.

A copy of the full s. 33 notice can be found on the Shires website or a hard copy with your rates.

Requirements of land 4000-meter square and under	Requirements of land 4001-meter square and over
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing Dead flammable matter including dead grass shrubs and plants shall be slashed, mowed, or trimmed down by other means to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property. • Asset Protection Maintain all dead flammable material below 2 tonne per hectare across the entirety of the property. (See definitions for fuel load) • Clean Gutters Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings are free of flammable matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing Dead flammable matter including dead grass shrubs and plants shall be slashed, mowed, or trimmed down by other means to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property. Unless used for pasture or crop. • Asset Protection Maintain all dead flammable material below 2 tonne per hectare extending 20 meters out from all buildings. (See definitions for fuel load) • Clean Gutters Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings are free of flammable matter. • Fire Breaks Install a minimum 3-meter-wide and 4-meter height clearance fire break no further than 3 meters away from. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entirety of the property boundary - Every 400 hectares of land - All buildings, sheds, and fuel storage - All stationary internal combust

FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY INCURE PENALTIES UP TO \$5000

FIREBREAK CONSTRUCTION

In the rural regions of Western Australia, firebreaks play a vital role in safeguarding lives and properties. Firebreaks serve numerous functions and when properly constructed, can considerably mitigate the damage caused.

It's important to clarify that the primary function of a firebreak isn't merely to halt the progression of a fire, as commonly believed. Its fundamental purpose is to provide a strategic site for firefighting activities and ensure a safe access and egress. In milder conditions, firebreaks can indeed prevent the spread of fire between properties.

For maximum effectiveness, firebreaks should be devoid of any combustible materials, and they must never end in a dead-end. Moreover, these breaks should be safe for firefighters who might need to travel on the rear of a fire vehicle. This implies that any overhanging branches that could pose a risk to the firefighters or obstruct vehicle access to the fire should be removed.

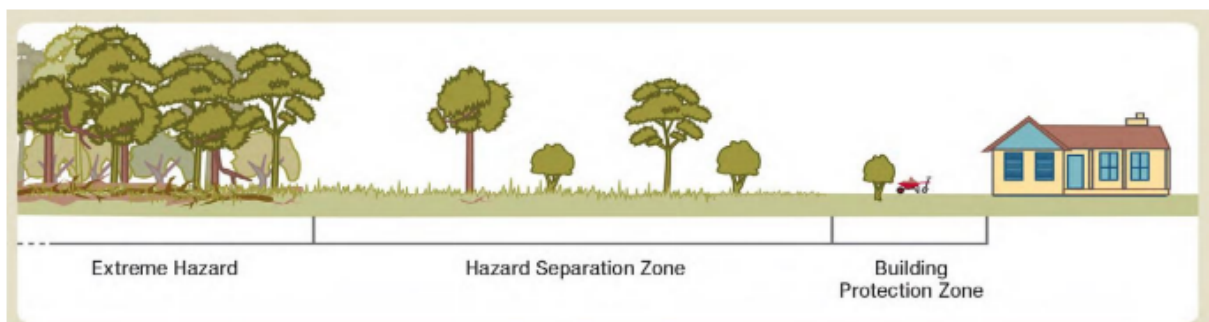


ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ)

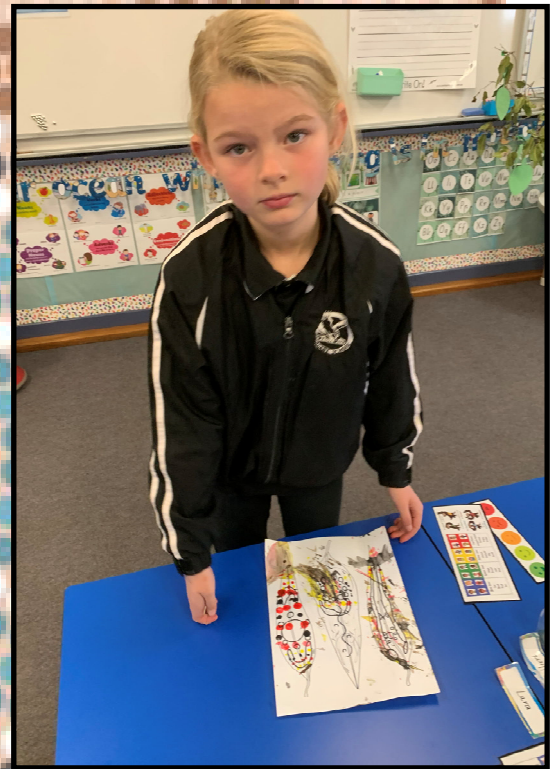
An Asset Protection Zone (APZ) is an area extending 20 metres from the furthest point around an asset building where there is reduced flammable material. This means there is less material that can catch fire, improving the dependability of a property.

Consider the below best practice.

- ✓ **Maintain the fuel load under 2T per hectare.**
Consider, will it burn if embers are flying everywhere.
- ✓ **Prune overhanging trees and branches**
Trees and branches can catch fire and cause direct flame contact with your asset.
- ✓ **Clean gutters**
Gutters are often a weak spot that collects dead material and catch fire in bushfires
- ✓ **Remove wood piles and fuel**
Piles of rubbish, wood and fuel can create intense fire activity that may impact your asset through radiant heat or direct flame contact.



NAIDOC WEEK 2023



As part of our studies relating to NAIDOC week the whole school worked to create an Aboriginal inspired piece of dot art. As you will be aware, symbols are an integral part of some Aboriginal artworks, particularly those from the Western and Central Desert areas. The symbols are at the core of the painting, and at one level they contain some meaning of the painting. At another level, they are just part of the language the artist uses to tell the story.

In our work we used leaf templates and have tried to depict our story using traditional Aboriginal symbols. The leaves will later be gathered and arranged to form a 'leaf wreath' which will be proudly displayed as the centre piece of our art display at the upcoming Toodyay Show.



Shires of Victoria Plains and Goomalling



Art Trail

GOOMALLING TO YERECOIN

September 1 to September 30





YERECOIN TRADERS

Little Country Store & Café



Licensed café with alfresco dining



Country inspired gifts & homewares



Plants & plant care products



Catering & event hosting



Wholefood & fresh produce



Make the trip to Yerecoin today and experience our warm, friendly, country hospitality.



38 Miling Road Yerecoin



(08) 9654 6015

Open Monday to Friday 7am to 5pm | Saturday 8am to 12pm

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