



July 2025

SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS

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YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



From the Shire President

Pauline Bantock



During the last week of June, I joined our CEO and over 1300 people from the Local Government Sector at the Annual General Assembly in Canberra. Local Governments from all around Australia send Council leaders to advocate for better federal funding, policy reforms and effective partnerships.

The national event begins with the one-day Regional Forum where we discussed some of the big topics such as the changing role of regional disaster resilience, stronger road networks and regional health. I particularly found the presentation on regional demographics from Bernard Salt very interesting, predicting a 25% increase in population over the next 40yrs, requiring a 40% lift in food production. The need for food and resources will continue to lift focus on regional areas like Victoria Plains.

During the Annual General Assembly, voting delegates went through 192 motions which are proposed from all corners of Australia. There were a few motions which absolutely had my head shaking in disbelief, showing a real misunderstanding of regional Australia from some of the larger city councils. But overall, most motions will help the Australian Local Government Association advocate for the funding and policies that we really need.

I thank our CEO Sean and Council's support officer Julie, for arranging some important meetings while we were in Canberra. Sean led a group of Wheatbelt CEO's & Presidents through a meeting with the Director of the Housing Support Program, discussing the Wheatbelt Regional Housing Initiative to develop 459 new homes across the 10 shires. We were reminded how successful our application was, receiving \$32.8 million in a very competitive grant process, to commence the head work development. We can't wait for the funding distribution to commence so we can get going on the project.

Representatives from the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils met with newly elected Federal MP Trish Cook, discussing matters such as the energy transition and phase out of live sheep export. We are planning a round table meeting between AROC and Ministers later in the year and thank MP Cook for helping us with the arrangements. Strength in numbers also helped us discuss points with Minister Kristy McBain's office, the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government.

On our final day in Canberra, Sean & I met with the Coordinator-General for the National Emergency Management Agency. It was lovely to hear that Brendan Moon had an understanding of Victoria Plains, as he told us stories of visiting family in Calingiri, driving a harvester during his early years.

We arrived back to WA in the late hours of Friday night and yes, the event can be a bit draining at times. Imagine some of the strongest personalities from each Local Government in Australia in one room, discussing the big topics and fighting for our local communities. However, I can honestly say I come home from the National General Assembly invigorated and inspired. It reminds us why we are involved in local government and particularly reminds me of the need to constantly advocate for our communities and push our needs to the top of the priority list.

Kind Regards,

Cr. Pauline Bantock
Shire President

From the Chief Executive Officer

Sean Fletcher



During June and into July, the Shire has been busy with not only closing out the 24/25 financial year but undertaking advocacy at the State and Commonwealth level.

AROC and Shire Advocacy – Canberra

During 23 – 27 June, the Shire President and I attended Local Government Week in Canberra, along with 1,300 other local government representatives from across the nation. This consisted of participating in, and advocating as follows:

- The Australian and Regional Economic Forum, including the increase in Australia's population by 4M in the next 10 years and the need to increase our productivity by 20 – 40% and addressing regions that are losing population. It was interesting to note the strong trend of people returning to country areas;
- The Main Congress, including a speech by the Governor General and workshops regarding emergency management and social housing;
- The Ministerial Briefing Sessions including ministers Hon. Kristy McBain and Hon. Josh Wilson;
- Eight Meetings regarding the following:
 - i. Housing Support Program – confirming the arrangements that will see the Shire receive \$4.5M to develop the Edmond Street development;
 - ii. Woodside – regarding its Carbon Offset program in the Shire;
 - iii. Renewable Energy Matters including working with other local governments on the development of a submission in response to PoweringWAs Draft Community Benefits Guideline;
 - iv. Wheatbelt GP (Doctor) Matters – there is now a Wheatbelt alliance to develop the case for better doctor provision in the Wheatbelt;
 - v. Brendan Moon, the Coordinator General of the National Emergency Management Agency regarding the Shire's AGRN 962 flood claim from March 2021.
 - vi. Trish Cook MP, the Member for Bullwinkle re AROC matters, as three of the five AROC local governments are in her electorate.

Our face to face advocacy has been important in not only resolving issues but in terms of securing funding for key projects and community outcomes.

The Energy Transition and Community Benefit Contributions

As I have been letting you know for a while now, Western Australia is undergoing a rapid energy shift or transition and local communities—particularly in rural and regional areas—are at the frontline of hosting large-scale

renewable energy projects. These projects offer economic and social opportunities but also introduce complex local impacts and risks for the communities that will host these developments and neighbouring communities alike, with some areas experiencing concentrated development activity.

The design and development of renewable energy projects has outpaced planning at a Federal and State Government level and Local Governments, especially those in regional Western Australia, have been left to fill the void. As we know, the Shire of Victoria Plains is also impacted by the same situation.

Continued on from the Chief Executive Officer

Sean Fletcher

Both the Shire President and I are on the WALGA Large Scale Renewable Energy Working Group and have worked with the other stake holders to produce the Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide. WALGA released the Guide on 9 July 2025, to assist Local Governments navigate large-scale renewable energy projects. The Guide, developed by WALGA in consultation with Local Government, State Government and industry, is designed to support Local Governments in dealing with large-scale renewable energy projects. The Guide provides Local Governments with a practical framework to understand their role, engage with developers and their communities and advocate for lasting economic benefits from these projects.

The Guide also contains useful information that you can access regarding what the Energy Transition is, the need for community benefits and how to advocate with renewable energy providers.

A copy of the Guide can be found here:

[WALGA Renewable-Energy-Community-Benefits-and-Engagement-Guide.pdf](#)

In addition to the above, the Shire has met PoweringWA on a number of occasions now regarding the Energy Transition and the development of appropriate policies regarding the State's plan. These meetings have been very successful and have seen the Shire's advocacy regarding community benefits, housing impacts and community engagement taken on board.

PoweringWA has now issued a consultation paper: Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects. The WA Government welcomes views from local communities, landholders, local governments, potential and current renewable energy developers and all Western Australians with an interest in the energy transition. The feedback period closes on 18 August 2025.

This Guideline points out that the purpose of this paper is to respond to requests from communities and renewable energy developers to provide a resource for determining appropriate community benefits arrangements for renewable energy infrastructure. This guideline can be applied to renewable energy generation infrastructure such as wind turbines, solar farms and batteries. The principles in this guideline are broad and can be applied across WA. However, many of the suggested benefits values are most relevant to projects in the State's South-West, especially those intending to connect to the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

Community benefits are only one part of social performance for renewable energy projects, and there are many other ways that projects can contribute to local communities. It is expected that projects will follow best practice in how they are developed, including local training and employment, procurement of goods and services and development and use of local infrastructure. Renewable energy projects are only a subset of electricity infrastructure – for instance, social performance for transmission infrastructure is also important and will be considered separately.

Further to this advocacy work, both the President and I have been working with other Wheatbelt local governments regarding the development of a submission that we can submit to this draft guideline.

A copy of the consultation paper can be found here:

[Community Benefits Guideline for communities hosting renewable energy projects](#)

Both the President and I have been invited to the Regional Leaders Summit regarding Renewable Energy Developments in Newcastle, NSW in early August. This is so that we can continue our advocacy work regarding the Energy Transition both at the National and at the State level. Our attendance is made possible through support provided by PoweringWA.

The Final Word

If you would like to talk to me regarding any of the above, please contact the Shire Office and make a time to come and see me.

Kind Regards,
Sean Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer

From the Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Colin Ashe



Hello everyone,

A busy time for the finance and admin team as we try to finalise the new budget 25-26 and End of Financial Year statements position which has an impact on the budget so this will be relatively short:

Finance:

The Capital Projects have virtually been completed with some carry overs primarily to either unfavourable weather conditions or delay in supplier goods. The list of completed projects is significant and I will provide this in a later edition but for now I will advise those capital items carried forward (C/F) into 25-26

Activity	C/F (\$)	Status
Staff Housing Development	27,000	Awaiting grant funding
Depot Car Park	15,000	Supplier availability
Animal Pound / Shelter	35,000	No grant funding in 24-25
Bolgart East Rd Seal - renewal	57,250	weather
Poincare St - Seal renewal	60,000	weather
Calingiri New Norcia Rd - reconstruct	79,198	weather
Cavell St and Haig Intersection	10,000	weather
Bolgart Skatepark	5,000	Completed in July 25
Calingiri Playground Equipment	30,000	Additional grant funding required
Truck Parking Bay - Yerecoin	21,500	weather
Bore - Goudge / Parker Rd	9,800	Minor items to finalise

As always – a quick shout out to the team, this FY has been a challenging one – not so much on the work itself, but due some personal issues and pending staff changes. The dedication shown to help each other during the tough times is very evident – we are a tight team, and the effort doesn't go unnoticed so thank you!

Budget 2025-26:

The team continues work hard to get this finalised and the plan is to have this completed by the end of July 25 and issue rate notices in early Aug 25 as has been the case in previous years. If you are experiencing financial hardship, the shire has a policy to assist on this so do not hesitate to contact the office and confidential discussions and arrangements can be made.

Kind Regards,
Colin Ashe
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Contact Main Roads

Our team is available 24/7 to help you with any questions you have or information you may need regarding our road network. You can call us on 138 138

<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/contact-us/>



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From the Manager Works and Services - Silvio Brenzi



MAKING A WORKS REQUEST

As all of us carry out our daily tasks through the shire, we see items that may need attention to be rectified. This can be from an incident such as a fallen tree or a maintenance item like a broken gutter on a building or a pothole in a road.

To manage these items correctly, the Shire has a Customer Request system to lodge the concern or request that needs attention. This enables the task to be assigned to the correct staff member for evaluation and action if needed. To do this efficiently, we need certain information to follow through with, such as the name and contact of the person making the request, where the problem or issue actually is and what the issue is in itself. Without these recorded accurately, it can at times be difficult to identify the issue being raised leading to frustration from the apparent lack of action by the Shire.

Please **ONLY** use the approved process of calling the main office number of 9628 7004 even after business hours, as this is monitored and recorded. You can also e-mail reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au to lodge your request.

To date, many have called work mobiles such as the Manager of Works and Services to request or lodge a request. This is not the approved method of recording a request, and the mobile number for the Manager of Works and Services will no longer monitor calls for work requests.

Please ensure to follow the process above to have your requests recorded and action promptly once investigated.



Kind regards,
Silvio Brenzi
Manager - Works and Services

From the Community Development Officer Katrina Humphries



The Shire have a few exciting activities coming up in the near future for our youth and families.

We have been lucky enough to receive two more community grants one being from the Learning for a Better World and Friend of Libraries Australia program. This grant is for hosting a digital coding workshop in Bolgart for children aged 10 to 18 to attend for free. This workshop is going to be a great way for kids to get a hands on experience in the world of digital coding and they may even possibly get the chance at having a go to create something really cool.

Our second grant that we have received is to go towards a Citizen Science corner at one of our libraries located in the Shire. This will be an education "corner" for everyone of all ages that are interested in learning about the science behind something and possibly watching it grow or develop and we may even get the chance to have a real-life scientist come along to host a workshop. This grant program is through the wonderful team at the Australian Library and Information Association.

In regard to grant funding, the Shire has just closed its 25/26 Annual Shire Community Grant round which was open for all community groups to apply for funding assistance with a project they have. We received some great submissions again this year with 11 in total being submitted for some wonderful community minded projects. The outcome of these grant applications will be announced in August.

We also have Jally Entertainment coming to Piawaning on their tour with a theatrical performance called Aladdin and his Magic Smartwatch. This is sure to be a great night for all ages and you can be sure to be treated to a family friendly interactive performance. Tickets are available at the door on the night. Please see the full flyer in the newsletter for all the information.



Australian Library and
Information Association

Kind Regards,
Katrina Humphries
Community Development Officer

Confidential Matters

When sending confidential matters to the Shire,
please ensure emails are
forwarded to

reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Labelled 'Private and Confidential'



Ordinary Council Meeting

Will be held
Wednesday

30th July 2025

Commencing at 2:00pm in the
Calingiri Council Chambers

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.



From the Emergency Management Officer

Jack Van Voorst



Over the past month the emergency management team has continued to bolster the Shires emergency management capacity and outreach through our Joint Shire of Victoria Plains and Shire of Wongan-Ballidu Local Emergency Management committee. The committee held a successful emergency response exercise followed by a productive meeting and debrief with a number of lessons learned that will further guide our response to emergencies that occur within our local communities.

Exercise “Bitter Road”

On Saturday 14 June 2025, the Shire of Victoria Plains and Shire of Wongan-Ballidu conducted a Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Emergency Training Exercise.

Held at the intersection of Depot Road and Short Street in Wongan Hills, the scenario involved a ute crash into a power pole, carrying an IBC of Paraquat—a hazardous agricultural chemical. The exercise incorporated hazmat and road crash elements, with five mock casualties.

Nearly 40 participants from a range of agencies and organisations took part, including Western Power, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), Wongan Hills Police, Wongan Hills St John Ambulance, Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Ballidu Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service, Wongan Hills District High School YES Cadets, and representatives from both Shires.

The exercise tested multi-agency response, including scene control transitions between WA Police and DFES, chemical identification, safe extrication, decontamination, and coordination using the Shire’s Local Emergency Management Arrangements. It was a valuable learning experience that reinforced the importance of collaboration, clarified roles and responsibilities, and helped identify local resources.

These exercises are essential in ensuring our community is ready and resilient in times of crisis. Thank you to all involved for your commitment to community safety.

BFB training

Training for BFB volunteers is now underway, the shire has established a local joint training with Shire of Wongan-Ballidu. A number of courses from the Basics to the more advanced courses are being held. Training is great way to boost your knowledge and pick up on some new ideas.

The next introductory courses (Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills) are set to be held at the beginning of August. We are currently taking enrolments! These are the two courses which are a requirement in order to turn out with the Shire BFB appliances.

If you are interested in completing any training, or have any questions, please contact the Shire office and they will point you in the right direction.

Beginning of August	Bushfire Safety Awareness	Calingiri
Beginning of August	Firefighting Skills	Calingiri
19 – 20 July	Sector Commander	Calingiri
8 August	Rural Fire Awareness	Wongan Hills
20 August	Fire Control Officer	Wongan-Hills *Please enrol in the Goomalling course first
5 – 7 September	Incident Controller Level 1	Calingiri
27 September	Bushfire Safety Awareness	Wongan Hills
28 September	Firefighting Skills	Wongan Hills

Kind Regards,
Jack Van Voorst
Emergency Management Officer

LEMC IN ACTION



YERECOA CENTENARY



YERECOA

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS • 1925 - 2025

5TH, 6TH & 7TH SEPTEMBER

Join Us in celebrating 100 years of
community and progress at our
2025 centenary event!

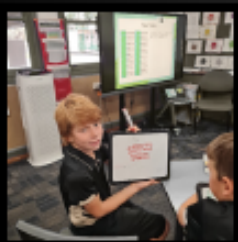
Email:

yerecoinprogress@outlook.com for
more information or
call 0429 548 055

BOLGART PRIMARY SCHOOL

Phone 96275 300

Email: Bolgart.PS@education.wa.edu.au



Senior Room News

The senior class are gaining fitness with regular cross-country practice and are game ready for tomorrow's netball and football Eagle Cup in Calingiri. We have enjoyed our footy session with Jarred.

In Digital Technology we are learning about the operating systems and coding of computers. Binary code is cool.

Science is all about energy. The year 5/6 group have been learning about how light travels and the 3/4 group are learning about heat transference.

We have also established a basic facts program in maths which is helping to improve the speed and accuracy of our basic maths knowledge.

The class completed reading our class novel 'Blueback' written by Tim Winton and enjoyed watching the movie adaptation.

In English we are working on persuasive texts. Would you like to see a pet dragon in our class? I bet we could persuade you!

Junior Room News

In the Junior Room we have been exploring the traditional tale of The 3 Billy Goats Gruff, analysing the text structure, characters and setting. Students have enjoyed experimenting with adjectives to create elaborate descriptions of the Troll and Goats.

Students have also been busy practising their musical items with Mr Black, ready for Music Fest coming up in Week 10. The pieces are lots of fun and we can't wait to hear the final performances.

We also had a great time dressing up for Pirate Day on May 15th to mark and fund raise for childhood brain cancer research. All students took part in a treasure hunt, working together to find the treasure! We would like to thank all families who contributed to our fundraising efforts.





WHAT'S ON AT CPS

Phone: 96288 500 – Email: Calingiri.ps@education.wa.edu.au – Address: 18 Cavell Street Calingiri

YEAR 4-6 SCHOOL CAMP

Our senior room students recently spent the week with the students & staff from Cadoux PS, Miling PS & Kalannie PS exploring all the wonderful sites of Perth. Thanks to Mrs Hogan & Ben Ballantyne for a wonderful week.

My favourite activity:
From Skye - The Movies



My favourite part of the day
From Temana
Playing
football vortex

My favourite activity:
From Reegan - watching
How to Train your Dragon



My funniest friend

From Hud -
Angus
Jude & Dave



My favourite activity:
From Kobe - Bike Ride

The funniest moment
From Hunter - when I slid
3m on the wet grass in
the rain



JUNIOR RM ART WALK



COMMUNITY STORY TIME

Every Friday morning at
Calingiri PS Library from
9.00am



45mins
Ages 2-5
Parent
supervision
required

Australian of the Year Awards

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

The Australian of the Year Awards celebrate extraordinary Australians who make a profound impact on lives, communities and society. Their challenges and triumphs, often reaching beyond professional achievements, reflect each recipient's unique life journey.

While the Awards focus on the year of recognition, they also honour the individual's lifelong and ongoing contributions to the nation.

▶ Australian of the Year

Celebrating the achievements and contributions of eminent Australians who are role models for us all.

▶ Senior Australian of the Year

Recognising those Australians aged 65 and over who continue to achieve and make a difference.

▶ Young Australian of the Year

Celebrating inspiring 16 to 30 year olds who have accomplished great things in all walks of life.

Australia's ▶ Local Hero

Established in 2003, Australia's Local Hero acknowledges people making a difference in their local community.

australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate

Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer

The State Government has recently announced that it has been determined that eradication of the PSHB is no longer technically feasible and that the decision has been made to transition to long-term management. As indicated in WALGA's media release, this decision is a result of the inadequacy of the State's PSHB response. It is unacceptable that Local Governments now face the additional, ongoing costs of managing infected trees in public parks and streets.



This beetle poses a significant risk to farmers in Western Australia, particularly due to its ability to attack a wide range of host plants, including many common agricultural crops. The beetle introduces a fungus into trees, which blocks the flow of water and nutrients, ultimately leading to tree death. This can severely impact fruit and nut orchards, as well as other valuable agricultural trees. We ask everyone to help do their part to try stop this beetle and keep an eye out for it and be mindful of where you purchase soil and plants from.



Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audit Kits

Available for loan at more than 100 libraries and
Community Resource Centres across WA

For a list of locations, visit



www.switchyourthinking.com/energy



Department of Energy, Mines,
Industry Regulation and Safety
Energy Policy WA



Want to save on your power bills and make your home more energy efficient?
Home Energy Audit Kits are now available to borrow from the Shire of Victoria Plains Admin office – for free!

These kits include easy-to-use tools and a simple guide to help you:

- ✓ Identify energy hot spots
- ✓ Reduce electricity and gas use
- ✓ Cut down on bills
- ✓ Make your home more sustainable

Please contact the Shire on 9628 7004 and speak with Bridget to find out more information and organise a date and time to borrow the kit for free.

Please note terms and conditions apply to people borrowing the Home Energy Audit Kit.

#SwitchYourThinking

PET REGISTRATION



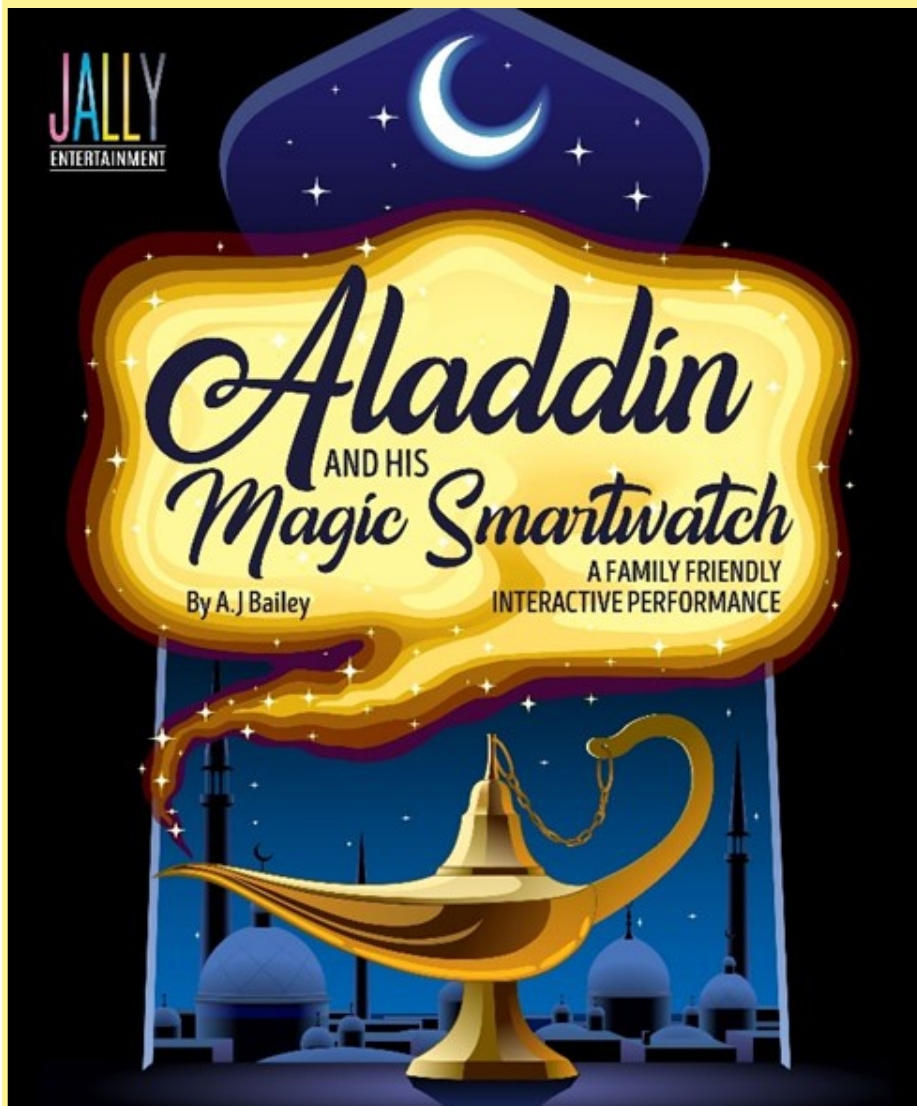
DISCOUNTED



**HAVE YOU GOT A NEW
PUPPY OR HAVE NEVER
REGISTERED YOUR
DOG BEFORE?
HEAD INTO THE SHIRE
TO RECEIVE A 50%
DISCOUNT ON YOUR
DOGS REGISTRATION.
THIS IS ONLY VALID
FROM MAY TO
OCTOBER 2025.**



Shire of Victoria Plains



A family friendly interactive performance.

Join us for a humorous tale of wishes-gone-wrong and lessons learned in Jally Entertainment's lively twist on a classic!

Aladdin was sick and tired of his boring old lamp, so he traded it for a brand-new Smartwatch! The smartwatch was great, but it came with a very strange Genie who was always getting things wrong.

Aladdin wished for a really big HOUSE and got a really big MOUSE...What the? His Mum wasn't happy either.

Venue: Piawaning Hall

Date: 31st July 2025

Time: 5:30pm

Cost: Tickets purchased at the door

\$10 per person

or

2 adults & 2 children \$40

Includes light finger food BYO refreshments

The show goes for approx. 50 mins PLUS there is a meet and greet with the performers afterwards.



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

Mogumber & Districts Progress Association Inc - C10480955

Calingiri Progress Association - C10399453

Piawaning Expo Inc - C11085061

If you would like your group to be included on this list please email reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Rural Aid Counsellor **ROGER HITCHCOCK**, is heading your way



and will be available to chat, provide information and help farmers apply for assistance.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Fodder, Domestic water, Domestic water tanks, Disaster Financial Assistance

FARM ARMY JOBS

Farm recovery Events RA's free job hosting platform for farmers farmarmy.com.au

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

FREE mental health & wellbeing counselling services ruralaid.org.au/mhwb

SUSTAINABLE AG EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Helping farmers focus on agri sustainability or resilience building ruralaid.org.au/educational funding

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Helping rural & regional communities prosper ruralaid.org.au/community-development

When: Wednesday 20/August/ 2025

Where: Calingiri Hall

Times: 12:00pm to 1.30pm

CALL ROGER on 0460 310 661

to find out how Rural Aid can help you or call

1300 327 624 | ruralaid.org.au



Another improvement completed for the Bolgart Caravan Park with some new power boxes installed for the powered sites.

These new power bollards also have the added benefit of lights at the top, water tap for ease of access and somewhere to neatly hook power cords for safety purposes.





YERECOIN TRADERS

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