

SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER (©) (†)







From the Shire President Pauline Bantock

It was my absolute pleasure to conduct citizenship ceremonies for five members of our community on the 30th of April. It marks a meaningful milestone in their lives as they choose to call Australia home. Becoming an Australian Citizen is about embracing a new identity while also bringing the

richness of their own culture and heritage into the tapestry of our community. Citizenship is more than a status, it is a promise to uphold the values that bind us together – freedom, respect and equality. Thank you for choosing Australia and the Shire of Victoria Plains as your home.

Following this uplifting ceremony, it was time to knuckle down into Council's governance role during the April Ordinary Council Meeting.

We have entered the audit process for the 24-25 year. The Audit Committee met with our Auditors and a representative from the State Government's Auditor General Office. During this audit entry meeting, we are provided the Audit Strategy Memorandum which explains the upcoming audit approach and areas of focus. The audit process will run through until around mid-November.

Council also completed the minor review of the Strategic Community Plan which is conducted every 2 years. It's a desktop exercise which focuses of resetting the Corporate Business Plan. The process found the Strategic Community Plan is still fit for purpose however there are some matters that will need to be addressed as we recognise their recent emergence, such as the energy transition, emerging mining industries and space capability.

With this review completed, our Shire is on track regarding our integrated planning and reporting requirements. The next round of plans will be undertaken before June 2026 including:

- Workforce Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Corporate Business Plan
- Information Communication & Technology Plan
- And the major review of the Strategic Community Plan.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Shire's ANZAC Day Ceremony and congratulate the ANZAC Day Committee for organising the special event. A special thanks to the Bolgart CWA who catered for a crowd of over 100.

I started AZNAC day at the Dawn Service in Mogumber, hosted by the Mogumber Progress Association and ended the day back in Mogumber for some friendly rounds of Two-Up at the Mogumber Hub. I thank everyone who paid tribute in some way on ANZAC Day, commemorating the sacrifices of Australian and New Zealand soldiers who have served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Kind Regards,

Cr. Pauline Bantock Shire President

From the Chief Executive Officer Sean Fletcher

Hello from the CEO

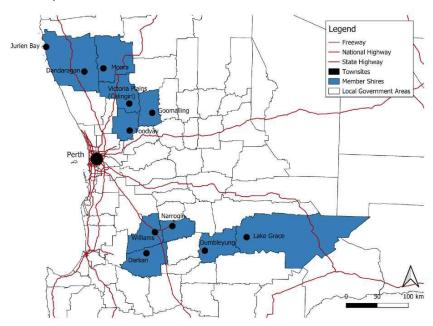
During the month of April and as we head into May, the Shire has been busily getting on with and preparing to close out the financial year regarding its key projects. Anzac Day on 25th April was a highlight for the Shire and I would personally like to thank the Victoria Plains War Memorial Warden Mr Gary McGill, the Memorial Committee, Bolgart CWA, RAAF Pearce re the flyover and the 100 or more community members that attended the service.

Funding to Develop Edmonds Street Approved

I am pleased to advise that the funding to develop the Edmonds Street block in Calingiri for key worker housing has been approved by the Commonwealth Government.

The scope of this project is to develop the land, including installing and upgrading headworks, internal services, retaining walls, fencing and landscaping.

The Shire is the lead for the Wheatbelt Regional Housing Initiative, which has been approved to receive \$32.8M in funding. The Initiative consists of 10 local governments across the Wheatbelt with the aim of building over 400 homes for workers. The Shire's component is \$4.5M. The ten local governments participating in the Initiative are: Dandaragan, Dumbleyung, Goomalling, Lake Grace, Moora, Narrogin, Toodyay, Victoria Plains, West Arthur and Williams:



If you would like to talk to me further about this project, please get in touch with the Shire office.

Inauguration of NNO3 - European Space Agency Site - Yarawindah

As previously mentioned, the Shire is busily supporting ESA regarding the inauguration or official opening of the second deep space antenna at the ESA site just south of New Norcia.

This will be happening on 4th October 2025 and will be attended by space agencies from all around the world.

I am now part of a senior state government group that is assisting with the Inauguration. Part of the role of this group is looking at assisting ESA with the installation of a viewing platform of NNO1 and NNO3.

ESA plans to then have a community open day after the Inauguration.

Continued on from the Chief Executive Officer Sean Fletcher

Opening of the Calingiri New Norcia Rd and Toodyay Bindi Bindi Rd Intersection

I am pleased to advise that after six difficult years of dealing with regulators, land clearing authorities and a land clearing appeal, the Calingiri New Norcia Rd and Toodyay Bindi Bindi Rd Intersection is finally open. This project would not have been possible without the assistance of Main Roads WA Northam, CBH, Arc Infrastructure and the Shire's Outside Crew. Silvio as the manager responsible for this project has a bit more to say regarding the project in his article and so does Colin who has managed the finances for the project during the last two years.

Local Government Elections 2025

On the 18th October 2025, local government elections will be held across the State. The election for Victoria Plains will be conducted by the WA Electoral Commission.

The Shire though still has some responsibilities including:

- Updating the Owner/Occupiers Role. So, if you are an owner/occupier you may want to contact the Office and verify your status;
- Nominations will open on 4th September 2025 and last for 8 days:
- The Shire is looking to hold an information session prior to nominations opening. This will consist of a webinar to watch followed by a question and answer session;
- If you cannot make the information session, you will be able to watch the webinar on line;
- The caretaker period commences at the closing of nominations and lasts until the next day after the election. Some of the key matters that cannot be undertaken during the caretaker period include:
 - Making a local law (including an amendment or repeal local law);
 - Entering into, renewing or terminating, the employment contract of the CEO or a senior employee;
 - Entering into a major land transaction, or a land transaction that is preparatory to entry into a major land transaction;
 - Commencing a major trading undertaking;
 - Entering into a contract, or other agreement or arrangement, with consideration over \$250,000 or acquiring or disposing of property valued over \$250,000;
 - Calling for tenders, or tender exempt procurement, with an expected consideration above \$250,000;
 - Making prescribed decisions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015;
 - Deciding to do any of the above.

Some Final Thoughts

On the back of the Federal Election, the President and I are preparing a trip to Canberra for Local Government Week at the end of June. Local Government Week allows us to be brought up to speed on key matters regarding local government across Australia and the World, what the Commonwealth Government is planning and the opportunity for us to lobby ministers regarding key projects and other matters impacting on the Shire including: the housing project, the Energy Transition, emergency management funding and the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.

Kind Regards, **Sean Fletcher** Chief Executive Officer

From the Deputy Chief Executive Officer Colin Ashe

Hello Residents and Ratepayers,

Progress is being made on the budget 25-26 and concurrently ensuring we complete and close off 2024-25 activities and capital works as the EOFY rapidly approaches. The general sign of this being the Audit starting to crank up with Auditors on site at the shire towards the end of May 2025. My staff have been prepping for this along with the budget wish list.

Recently Council was presented with the strategic view of the plans for this coming financial year and out years (as a strategic view should do) and there is some significant projects to start. I'm predicting in the next 5-7 years the shire will see a major transformation which is exciting but also a little daunting. The downside which I did communicate to council is that we're unlikely to be able to fund everything we want in 2025-26 and therefore there needs to be some prioritisation to ensure we are 'real' in what can be achieved.

Finance:

As at Mar 25 the Capital Works and Projects can be summarised as:

Activity	Cost (\$)	Status
Admin Office Carpark	18,455	In progress
Drop Deck Trailer	41,645	completed
Hockey Goals	6,800	completed
Yerecoin Centenary Monument Contr.	10,000	completed
Footpaths	60,318	completed
Calingiri New Norcia Rd – reconstr.	104,760	In progress
Toodyay Bindi Bindi Rd – reconstr.	13,000	completed
Calingiri – New Norcia Intersection	559,135	In progress
Toodyay - Bindi Bindi Rd Nth (RRG)	505,588	In progress
Mogumber-Yarawindah Rd - Geo Tech	67,627	completed

The Calingiri – New Norcia Intersection is all but completed now (final cost not reflected above) and has been a labour of love for the management team. To give some context, this project was first approved during 2018 well before the current management teams tenure and for various reasons, continued to be delayed. This has been another legacy project finally (almost) closed which we are very proud of.

Unfortunately it has come at a cost higher than expected as prices have significantly risen since 2018 and has placed some pressure on the 2024-25 budget which will impact into activities in 2025-26. Nevertheless, it was a project we needed to do and now we can take a breath and move onto the next.

Administration

Artificial Intelligence (Ai) – I attended a webinar during May and it was quiet enlightening as what's coming down the pipeline. I have been watching the progress of this over the last 6-8 months, even using it sparingly on different aspects mainly at home and I think it is going to make life a lot easier moving forward. Most of us use it already in some form, we perhaps just don't appreciate or know how widespread it already is (have you used a google search or as a GPS in your farming equipment?).

From a shire perspective we have to be careful on security protocols and of course its not infallible so should be used as just another tool, not a complete solution to do your job. It will enhance how we work and on multiple levels of efficiency and because it is evolving so quickly like all technology, we either embrace or get left behind.

Continued on from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer: Colin Ashe

Server Down – during this month we also had a number of days where we had IT problems meaning the office had to be closed. Interestingly it was not the current cloud technology that was the issue, this was up an running fairly quickly but the on premise server (old technology) had problems and that took the time to resolve. Lesson learnt is to retire this old technology as soon as possible.

Library Business Case – council were briefed on a business case to budget for a mini refresh of shire library spaces which is well overdue. Included in the business case is to slowly transition to a more fit for purpose use of library services which is intended to be incorporated in 2025-26. In addition, starlink internet services have been procured and planned to be installed before the EOFY. Similarly this is well overdue and hopefully will provide an improved user experience.

Kind Regards,
Colin Ashe
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Would you like to be a part of creating youth spaces and events within our shire, developing new skills, creating ideas, being a voice for the Shire's younger generation and a chance to connect with others within our Shire?

If yes and you would like to learn more, please get in touch with Katrina our Community Development Officer either in-person at the Shire Office, by phone 9628 7004 or email katrina.humphries@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au to register your interest!

This is open to all up to the age of 18.



From the Manager Works and Services - Silvio Brenzi

April 30th saw the new Calingiri New Norcia – Toodyay Bindi Bindi intersection finally opened. Final linemarking to the centers is yet to be done this month by contractors, but the hold lines at the rail crossing are in place. The opening of the new intersection requires the old intersection closer to CBH to be closed, as we are not permitted to add an additional

crossing, so the new one has technically been relocated to the new location. This means that access to CBH is best made via the new intersection on Toodyay Bindi Bindi Road along to Calingiri West Road. Once CBH carry out their works, trucks will be able to use the access road as designed and intended.

The old road surface will be removed by shire staff and ARC will remove the 3 meter section either side of the rail.

The plant replacement program comes to its final part for 24/25 financial year with the delivery of the Service Truck replacement on the 9th May. This replaces the 2007 model that had come to the end of its service life. The new vehicle enables us to drill post holes, load equipment and service our on-site plant.

The last item to come in this year's program is an additional tandem dolly that has been constructed by Walker Diesel Services and is now awaiting delivery after licensing.

The Mogumber Yarawindah Road has also been completed with seal works on the 14th and 15th May. These works finally complete this road as part of the WSFN program. Line marking will be completed by contractors in the coming month. The next phase is Calingiri New Norcia Road, and survey design work is being completed now in preparation for this work. It is planned to be done in 3 stages of approximately 9km each commencing at the Calingiri end. WSFN will inform the shire once they can confirm continued funding for this essential program through the Federal Government.



Kind regards, Silvio Brenzi Manager - Works and Services

From the Community Development Officer

Katrina Humphries

This year seems to be going by at a rapid pace with many grants submitted, event planning underway, and projects being completed.

I have had the pleasure over the last couple of months to attend some of our local town progress association meetings. These meetings have been very insightful into what our communities have been up to in the last 12 months and then also for their future projects that they are planning and working towards.

Our progress associations are great community groups who strive towards being able to make a difference within their communities through numerous different avenues. Our progress associations are run by local volunteers who are passionate about their communities, and they are always looking and welcoming of new members to join them.

Thank you as always to the Shires Anzac War Memorial Committee and Warden Gary McGill for organising this annual service and to those who attended to pay their respect and remember those before us who served for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. Bolgart CWA members did the catering again this year and served up an amazing array of food, thank you to the CWA ladies. Thank you to Ed Ludemann for stepping in and being the MC for the morning, and to all those that assisted in some way.



Katrina Humphries Community Development Officer

From the Emergency Management Officer Jack Van Voorst

April saw the commencement of unrestricted burning across the Shire, signalling the end of the high threat period. The Shire has been busy taking advantage of the commencement of the low threat period, with several of our Fire Trucks receiving yearly servicing, planning training for our volunteers and planning for our upcoming joint Local Emergency management committee exercise coming up in June.

Unrestricted Burning

While the Shire entered the unrestricted burning period in April, we are still seeing dry conditions and elevated fire behaviour during burning operations and while burning permits are not required, landowners and occupiers should still follow the guidelines below:

- Register your burn with DFES on 1800 198 140. It only takes 2 minutes and helps reduce unnecessary 000 calls.
- Monitor weather conditions before, during, and after your burn. Always patrol the area post burn and ensure it is fully extinguished.
- Notify your neighbours in advance.
- Ensure smoke does not affect roads, traffic, or nearby townsites.
- Ensure fire breaks are in place before burning.
- Have sufficient firefighting resources available throughout the burn.
- Report any out-of-control burns to 000 immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact the Shire of Victoria Plains.

For our BFB Volunteers

DFES are seeking nominations for a supercharged WAFES Conference for DFES/BFB volunteers! This year offers volunteers a unique opportunity to attend the W-AFAC Conference. A blend of all your favourite experiences from the WAFES Conference with the bonus of the national AFAC Conference and Exhibition, this is once in seven-year opportunity not to be missed.

The W-AFAC Conference includes:

- Tuesday 26th August: Exhibition opening and welcome event think WAFES Conference sundowner, but bigger!
- Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th August: AFAC conference program including access to the exhibition with demonstrations each day.
- Friday 29th August: The ever-popular DFES tours run during the day with the WAFES Awards gala dinner rounding out the week.

Volunteers can nominate through volunteer hub, but if you do not have access to it, then please contact the shire office and we can assist you.

Kind Regards, **Jack Van Voorst** Emergency Management Officer

Employee Focus

Josie Barry

Whilst I may have only lived in the Shire of Victoria Plains since early 2023, when my family moved here to take on the management role at Atlas Farms, some people might remember me from a" few" years ago when I lived in Yerecoin on the Ferguson family farm with my parents — Phil and Sue and sister Sherree, before moving to Baldivis where I spent most of my younger/teenage years.

Prior to living in Calingiri my husband Graham and I were living in the small town of Williams, south of Perth, where we raised our three children, and took great pride in being active members of their small community. When living in Williams, I worked for St John WA for 12 years in their Narrogin, Williams and Boddington ambulance subcentres, where I was their Administration / Customer Service Officer.

On the days I'm not in the office you will most likely find me on the farm helping (?) Graham. I really enjoy baking, sewing and, although not very good at it – gardening. I love watching all types of sports and my weekends are usually spent watching either one of our sons play football – one for the mighty Cougars and one in Perth for Mazenod College, or in Mandurah spending time with our daughter and new granddaughter.

I have really enjoyed being back in Calingiri and reconnecting with old friends and family members, along with meeting all the new people I have so far met. You can find me in the shire offices every Monday, Friday and an alternate Thursday, and i look forward to meeting everyone I've yet to.

Kind Regards,

Josie Barry

Customer Service Support Officer



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INFORMATION SHEET

Who is 2H Resources?

A West Australian owned company with a vision to be a leader in the net zero world initiative through natural hydrogen and helium exploration. These two natural substances are commonly found together.

2H Resources is the accepted applicant for 6 Special Prospecting Authority with Acreage Option (SPA/AO's) within the Wheatbelt and Eastern Goldfields regions for <u>natural helium exploration</u>.

At 2H Resources we place a high value on biodiversity and heritage. All activities will be done with an absolute minimum impact on the local environment and cultural areas.

Where will I see 2H Resources?

Soil gas sampling will be taking place over a period of 6 months; however, teams will only be on the ground for 2 weeks at a time.

This type of activity has little to no impact on the ground and will take place on existing road reserves within your local shire. There will be no need to access private properties, close roads/access tracks or re-route traffic for these sampling activities.

We will be in groups of 2-4 people moving around in light vehicles.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

It may not always be safe to pull over to approach a contractor carrying out soil gas sampling.

2H Resources have engaged and discussed this work program with your local shire and will continue to keep them updated along the way.

If you have any questions, please contact your local shire or 2H Resources using the following contact information.

kelly.richards@2hresources.com.au

(08) 9215 1800







2H Resources Soil Gas Sampling methodology & gas analysis equipment

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SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS OVER 50'S BINGO







Mogumber Hall located on Bindoon-Moora Road WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 10:30am



Lock the date in your calendar and register your interest for over 55's Bingo. This time we have a theme, so get ready to frock up for a laugh and some fun! We are going back to the 70's, so reach to the back of the wardrobe and pull out those outfits you have hidden there.



Please contact Katrina our Community Development Officer at the office by the 20th June on 9628 7004 or email at katrina.humphries@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au to register





ANNUAL COMMUNITY GRANT OPEN

EACH YEAR THE SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS INVITES SUBMISSIONS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SPORTING CLUBS FOR COUNCIL FUNDING OF PROJECTS FOR THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR. AN ANNUAL BUDGET ALLOCATION OF \$40,000 WILL BE MADE FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS, CAPPED TO A MAXIMUM OF \$5,000 AND NO MORE THAN 70% OF THE TOTAL PROJECT FOR ANY ONE PROJECT.

For more information or to receive a grant application package, please contact the Shire Community Development Officer Katrina Humphries via email katrina.humphries@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au or 9628 7004





Shire of Victoria Plains

Community Information Evening

Venue: Mogumber Hall Date: Wednesday 4th June 2025 Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm Bookings essential. To book via Eventbrite scan QR code

Community Drop-in Sessions

Venue: Mogumber Hall Date: Thursday 5th June 2025 Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm Bookings essential. To book via Eventbrite scan QR code



Shire of Chittering

Community Information Evening

Venue: Wannamal Community Centre Date: Wednesday 18th June 2025 Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm Bookings essential. To book via Eventbrite scan QR code

Community Drop-in Sessions

Venue: Wannamal Community Centre Date: Thursday 19th June 2025 Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm Bookings essential. To book via Eventbrite scan QR code





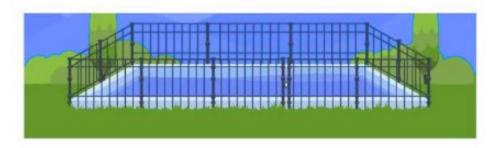








Swimming Pools, Spas and Safety Fencing



The Shire is currently updating its inspection database of all pools and spas located in the shire. These are required to be inspected by the Shire every four years to check that the pool fences continue to meet the current requirements.

If an accident occurs in a pool that is non-compliant, owners of the pool may be held liable.

If you are unsure if your pool or spa is included on the inspection database or you would like it included, or if you know of a pool or spa which appears to be unsafe, or you have any questions with regard to the most recent pool and spa fencing requirements, please contact us before 28th May 2025 on (08) 9628 7004 or email reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Help us to help you keep your backyard safe.

BOLGART PRIMARY SCHOOL

Phone 96275 300

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











Senior Room News

The Senior class have had a busy time. They have settled in well to their Indonesian lessons through SIDE and are enjoying two lessons per week with their teacher online.

We have also established our reading groups to build on our comprehension skills with small novels. The class have enjoyed listening to our class novel 'Witches' by Roald Dahl and are now comparing it to the original movie adaptation. We have begun reading Charlotte's Web by E.B. White.

As part of our Oral Language program, we are presenting talks on various topics. Our first topic was WEATHER. The next was SPORT and we are now talking about FOOD, then ANIMALS. We are becoming better at sequencing our ideas when planning our speeches.

In maths we have established two levels of the JEMM maths program with the JEMM+ being introduced for the second group. We have also begun our SpellEx program in groups to further develop phonic and word knowledge.

Junior Room News

The Kindy and Pre-Primary children have been learning about our bodies and the special things it can do! We have been talking about feelings and the 'Zones of Regulations' so we are ready to learn at school. The children have been loving our home corner, dressing up, cooking and developing their language and social skills. We have also started our 'explicit phonic lessons' and their writing skills are developing well.

Students in the Junior Room have also been leaning about the planets in the Solar System. They have been exploring our Space Play and travelling the Solar System using their 'passports' to record interesting facts they learn along the way!

Students also enjoyed teaming up with the Senior Room to complete our Harmony Day poster and share all the wonderful food that was provided in celebration of the different cultures within our school community.

YERECOIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

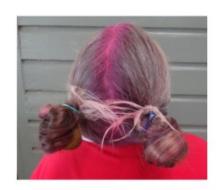


STUDENT COUNCIL:

CRAZY

Thank you to everyone who donated. We raised a fantastic total of: \$94.00.

Our chosen philanthropic charity is WarpNine, a Western Australian cancer organisation.







P&C Now4 P&C LADIES NIGHT: A lovely evening was held at New Norcia. Thanks to all that helped organise or donated raffle prizes. The raffle made approximately \$400.







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