



Shire of
**Victoria
Plains**
Space to Grow

MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER



Photo Credit: Natalie Talbot

Contact Us

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Local Government Elections

This year's Local Government Elections will see four nominees contesting three vacancies on the Shire of Victoria Council. The election will be held via postal vote and enrolled electors will receive information and candidate material in the mail. I wish all candidates well during their election campaign and thank you for taking an interest in our Shire.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the retirement of Cr Stephanie Penn and Cr David Lovelock, who's terms come to an end in October. I would especially like to thank Cr Lovelock who has been a dedicated representative of the Shire for two decades, serving as both Shire President and Deputy President, and contributing tirelessly to numerous committees and regional bodies. His commitment extended beyond meetings – he implemented a thoughtful succession plan, encouraging me to step into the President's role while he remained on Council to provide guidance and share his invaluable knowledge. There is no doubt about the deep care he's had for Victoria Plains. I encourage all community members to take a moment to thank Cr Penn and Cr Lovelock for their years of service.

Recent Meetings and Engagements

Over the past month, I have attended the WALGA Central Midlands Zone Meeting at Chittering and the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils (AROC) meeting in Toodyay. These gatherings are vital for collaborating with neighbouring shires on shared challenges and opportunities.

I also attended a meeting with Tony Mahar, the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC). The AEIC's role is to handle complaints and provide best-practice guidance for large-scale energy projects, including wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, and major transmission lines. The Commissioner works to improve transparency, community engagement, and fairness in Australia's energy transition – ensuring rural and regional communities are heard, informed, and benefit from these developments.

Locally, I participated in our monthly Council Briefing Session, the August Ordinary Council Meeting and a Special Council Meeting in which Council endorsed the joint submission on the draft community benefit guidelines for renewable energy projects, provided to Powering WA & WALGA from 40 Local Governments under the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance.

Congratulations to Yerecoin

Finally, I would like to congratulate the town of Yerecoin on celebrating its 100th year. I regret being unable to attend in person as I was away from the Shire for a both a wedding and birthday milestone, but I thank our CEO, Sean Fletcher, for representing the Shire and attending to the formalities on behalf of Council. The positive comments that have flowed after the weekend are a credit to the Yerecoin Progress Association and all those who contributed to the event.

Celebrating 100 Years of Yerecoin

It was a great honour to join in the celebrations on Saturday, 6 September 2025, a truly historic milestone—100 years of Yerecoin. What a remarkable achievement for our Shire and for the many generations of people who have helped shape this proud community. My speech is as follows:

I would like to begin by acknowledging and thanking everyone who attended the Centenary event, including Cr Suzanne Woods (Deputy Shire President), Cr Rebecca Johnson, members of the Yerecoin Progress Association, local clubs, businesses, community groups, and of course, all the residents and families—past and present—who continue to make Yerecoin such a special place.

Our Shire President, Cr Pauline Bantock, unfortunately could not attend but sends her heartfelt congratulations to the entire Yerecoin community.

The Centenary celebration was not only a commemoration of the past, but a celebration of the strength, resilience, and community spirit that defines Yerecoin. From its beginnings as a railway station to the establishment of its school in 1927, this town has grown and thrived thanks to the commitment and hard work of its people.

As CEO of the Shire of Victoria Plains, I'm proud to reaffirm our ongoing support for Yerecoin. In recognition of this important milestone, the Shire provided funding to support the celebration, including the unveiling of a new sculpture that now stands as a symbol of community pride. Shire staff also assisted with town clean-up efforts ahead of the event.

We've also been working on key infrastructure improvements for Yerecoin. I'm pleased to share that:

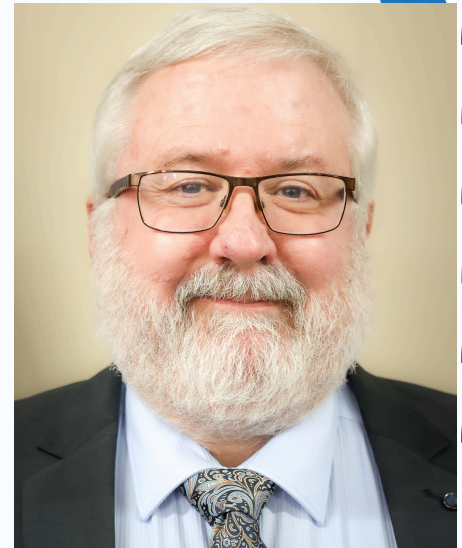
- We have invested \$21,500 to improve the Yerecoin car park within the tourism precinct—an important upgrade for both residents and visitors;
- And we are committing \$700,000 in the 2025–26 financial year for the first stage of a two-year program to upgrade Yerecoin South East Road, improving safety and long-term accessibility for the area.

These investments reflect our belief in Yerecoin's future and our commitment to supporting rural communities not just for today, but for generations to come.



I want to give special thanks to the Yerecoin Progress Association executive for their tireless efforts in organising a fantastic celebration—from the Sip & Swing evening to the breakfast at the Tennis Club and everything in between. Your dedication is what makes events like this possible, and it does not go unnoticed.

As we unveiled the Centenary sculpture, I was reminded of what makes communities like Yerecoin so enduring: strong roots, shared values, and a vision for the future. Let's continue to build on that legacy together.

Happy 100th birthday, Yerecoin. Here's to the next hundred years.



Hello Residents and Ratepayers



I'm glad to see there are glimpses of some warmer weather recently and hopefully more to come as we move into spring. Whilst of course the weather affects the farmers it also affects the shire in some of its capital projects it can undertake particularly on road construction. The Works Manager has been recently educating me on temperatures conducive to this construction proving your never to old to learn something new! Of course, we're keen to get the program underway as soon as possible and with this warmer weather, residents will start to see progress in the budgeted areas.

With my team – never a dull moment, great effort in having the budget adopted, getting rates out and progressing the draft Annual Financial Statements 24-25, the latter needing to be completed by 30 Sep 25. Then we will have the auditors here in early Oct 25. This will all culminate in having the final Annual Financial Statements 24-25 adopted by council no later than the 31 Dec 25. The quiet period for my team is Dec and Jan 26 and then we start to ramp again to do it all again!

Finance

As its early in the financial year there is very little to report regarding progress against the budget but as mentioned, this will ramp up as the various grant funds are received along with rates. One aspect that has been completed is the installation of a new light tower at the Calingiri Sportsground. It took a bit longer than expected due to suppliers but hopefully it has improved the facility for the longer term.

The CEO and I will be conducting the annual budget 25-26 roadshow in Gillingarra on the 16 Sep and in Calingiri on the 18 Sep. Full details can be found on the shire website and Facebook and we look forward to providing the presentation at these venues.

Administration

For the 24-25 year 481 jobs were logged in the shires Customer Relations Management System of which 441 were resolved. Broadly this equated to 206 jobs in Works and Services, 136 for Building Maintenance and 89 rates related.

As the warmer weather of summer comes it may be time to look at getting or renewing a gym membership to shed a couple of kilos and get that body into shape 😊. The shire charges are very reasonable and on a serious note, some sort of exercise is important for the young and old. It is well known that improved physical health helps manage weight, reduce risk of chronic illnesses, and boost energy not to mention stress relief – exercise reduces anxiety, improves sleep, and boosts mental clarity.

Finally, R U OK was on the 11 Sep and the shire recognised this for its workers with a breakfast that hopefully facilitates conversations. I mentioned to my team that generally country people are more resilient, they have to be with the challenges faced, but the downside is the 'she'll be right' attitude. It takes more courage to speak out when you're struggling then to keep it inside so I would encourage you to ask this question, R U OK to all your family and friends.

Notification of works – Mogumber – Level Crossing closure

Arc Infrastructure is undertaking essential maintenance works on the rail network in the Mid West Region at the Mogumber West Road / Bindoon- Moora Road level crossing from 23 September to 25 September 2025.

The works will require a temporary closure of the level crossing and the roads to the west of the rail crossing on Mogumber Road West between the hours of 7am and 6pm. Outside of these hours the road shall be reopened with a 40km/h speed restriction due to the road/rail crossing surface condition.

Local traffic only will be permitted to enter Mogumber Road West from the intersection of Brand Highway. All other motorists will be diverted to either the level crossing in Gillingarra or Wannamal. Please note the extended time required for these detours.

The works will include the removal and replacement of the track and the upgrading of associated infrastructure.

All practical efforts have been made to minimise disturbance to the surrounding residents and the wider community. Please follow all traffic management signage and directions during the works period. The detours are as follows for light vehicles:

- Bindoon-Moora Road (Northbound) - Detoured via Gillingarra Road -> Dandaragan Road -> Brand Highway
- Bindoon-Moora Road (Southbound) - Detoured via Wannamal Road West -> Brand Highway
- Brand Highway (Northbound) - Detoured via Dandaragan Road -> Gillingarra Road -> Bindoon-Moora Road
- Brand Highway (Southbound) - Detoured via Wannamal Road West -> Bindoon-Moora Road
- Mogumber-Yarawindah Road (Westbound) - Detoured via -> Bindoon-Moora Road -> Gillingarra Road -> Dandaragan Road -> Brand Highway
- Red Gully Road, Clarke Road, Fynes Road (Accessing Mogumber Road West) - Unable to travel East and access Bindoon-Moora Road, traffic to be detoured via Brand Highway -> Dandaragan Road -> Gillingarra Road -> Bindoon-Moora Road.

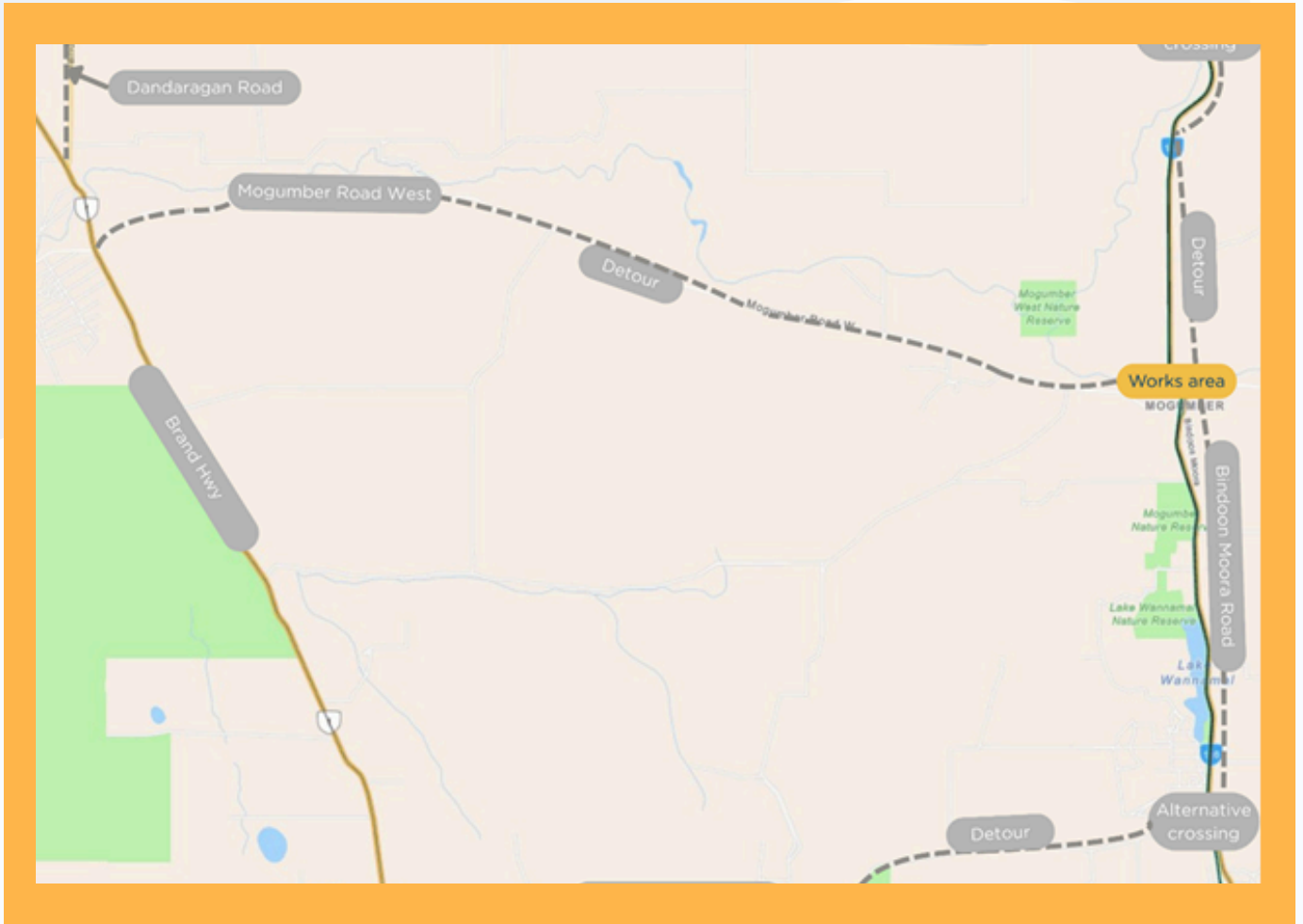
Heavy vehicle operators will be referred to the RAV Mapping Tool to make their decision on how they will travel around the detour.

These works are part of Arc's investment in the rail network in the Mid West and will ensure the integrity and safety of the State's freight rail network, a critical piece of infrastructure for the ongoing development and growth of our economy and communities.

Arc Infrastructure is committed to keeping the community informed of works occurring in your region. We appreciate your patience during these works and apologise in advance for any inconvenience.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the work please contact communications@arcinfra.com or call Trevor Blackmore Regional Lead Mid West on 0408 698 304.







First and foremost, I'd like to thank Katrina for the fantastic job she's done and for helping me find my feet. I'm also incredibly grateful to everyone who has reached out and introduced themselves. I'm really enjoying the challenge and look forward to helping everyone feel more included across our Shire.

If you have ideas for events you'd like to see in your community, I'd love to hear them. I want to tailor what we're doing to suit each area — after all, you know best what you'd like to attend.

This past month, a lot of my time has been focused on training and forums. Meanwhile, Nora at the Mogumber Library has launched Rhyme Time on Friday mornings. Also, the Fluro Disco — which had been postponed — went ahead at Calingiri Hall, with about 20 kids enjoying a great night of music, dancing, and friendship.

The Yerecoin Centenary weekend was a huge success. The Yerecoin Progress Association did an amazing job putting on a range of events. You can see the sculpture below with CEO Sean Fletcher. The Shire also organised a history display for the Saturday, which was well attended. It was fantastic to connect with so many locals and hear stories about how the area has changed over the years.

Coming up, we have the Budget Roadshow in Gillingarra and Calingiri. The Conservation Council will also be running a couple of workshops in Mogumber and Calingiri, focusing on the energy transition and what it means for our Shire. I encourage you to come along and ask questions.

Finally, I'm working on creating a Shire Calendar that includes all events — big and small — across the Shire and nearby areas. If you know of anything coming up, from golf and football to craft groups, school assemblies, meetings, swim meets, training nights, or anything else, please let me know. This will help us plan better, support your events, and spread the word more effectively. We have such a vibrant and active community, and this is a great opportunity to make sure everyone is in the loop and can get involved.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there's anything you'd like to share with me — you can reach me at bridget.ralph@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au or on 9628 7004.



The Shire's Emergency Management Team has been preparing for the upcoming bushfire season. At the end of August, the team had the opportunity to attend the Australasian Fire Authorities Council Conference in Perth. This is Australasia's largest emergency management conference and exhibition; providing a platform for Emergency Management practitioners to learn, network, and share experiences.

Firebreaks

Now is a good time to get a head start on your firebreaks. The Section 33. Fire Break Notice on pink paper contained within your rates package outlines the legal requirements for firebreaks on your property. Please ensure your properties are ready before October 1st. Failure to meet the requirements outlined within the Section 33. Notice can result in penalties up to \$5,000. Be sure to double check if your property fits in the 4000 and under square metre category, or the 4001 and above square metre category as they have different requirements.

The notice also contains a fire safety booklet, this contains some further best practices on fire breaks alongside useful information on a number of topics such as Total Fire Bans, Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans, Fire control Officer contacts, burning periods and guidelines for your farm response units.

Further information can be found on the Shires Website under Emergency Management.

Restricted Burning Period

As of the 1st of October, the whole Shire will enter the RESTRICTED burning period. This means permits are required to conduct any burning operations. Permits can be obtained by contacting your local Fire Control Officer, or Shire Office during standard business hours.

When burning under a permit take note of the following points:

- Permits are **SUSPENDED** on days of High, Extreme and Catastrophic Fire danger.
- Permits are also **SUSPENDED** if a Total Fire Ban or Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is in place.
- If denied a Permit by an FCO, it is a Breach of the Bushfires Act 1954 to attempt to obtain a permit from another FCO.
- All permit conditions must be followed.

You can find information about the fire danger rating and relevant weather information on the BOM website.

The Emergency Management Team are always happy to answer any questions.

Please reach out to the Shire Office and they can point you in the right direction.







**FIRE BREAK
REQUIREMENTS**

- ☒ Trafficable clearing for heavy 4WD vehicles.
- ☒ No less than 3 meters width clearance.
- ☒ No less 4 meters vertical clearance.
- ☒ Must not contain any flammable material.
- ☒ Must be maintained over summer

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2019 TOYOTA PRADO VX 4D (4x4) WAGON Travelled 99,007Kms, 1 Owner, Full Service History, 2.8T, Diesel Auto, Red, Tow Bar, Rear Air Bags, Anderson plug & Electric Trailer Brakes.	1IPE801 \$ 67,890
2020 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER PRADO VX 4D (4x4) WAGON Travelled 100,283Kms, 2.8Ltr Turbo Diesel, 6Speed Auto Trans, Driver assistance, Adaptive Cruise Control, Bluetooth Connectivity & 5 Star ANCAP Safety Rating.	1HBV380 \$ 66,900
2020 TOYOTA FORTUNER GX 4D (4x4) WAGON Travelled 42,100Kms, 2.8Ltr Turbo Diesel, 6 Speed Auto Trans, 5 Star ANCAP Safety Rating & Power Assisted Steering.	AS9627 \$ 47,500
2021 TOYOTA KLUGER GXL AWD 5D WAGON Travelled 100,000Kms, 3.5L V6 Premium Unleaded Petrol & 8 Speed Automatic, One Owner, Full Service History, Leather Interior & Toyota Tow Pack.	1HSA295 \$ 43,000
2002 FORD F250 XL (4x4) CREW CAB PUP Travelled 157,910Kms. Extremely low KMS, 4.2Ltr T/Diesel, 5 Speed Manual, Bull Bar, Spot Lights & Tow Pack.	1IPE800 \$ 41,990
2021 TOYOTA KLUGER GX 2WD 5D WAGON Travelled 73,305Kms, 3.5Ltr Petrol Engine, 5 Star ANCAP Safety Rating, 8 Speed Auto Transmission, Android Auto and Apple Car Play & 18 Inch Alloy Wheels.	1HTR791 \$ 39,500
2022 MITSUBISHI TRITON GLX (4x4) DOUBLE CCHAS Travelled 110,269Kms, 2.4Ltr Turbo Diesel, 6 Speed Auto Trans, 3 ton Braked Towing Capacity, 5 Seat Interior & Power Assisted Steering.	1IEU439 \$ 35,250
2009 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER PRADO ZR 3D (4x4) WAGON Travelled 320,039Kms, 3.0Ltr Turbo Diesel 5 Speed Automatic, 3 Door, Leather Interior, Toyota Alloy Bull Bar, Tow Bar Spotlights, 40 Channel UHF & Rare Find.	1HZQ008 \$ 29,450
2022 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER PRADO GXL 4D (4x4) WAGON Travelled 90,000Kms, 2.8L Diesel Turbo, 6 Speed Automatic & Premium Interior, Toyota Genuine Alloy Bull Bar, Toyota Tow Pack, One Owner & Full Service History.	1HUI169 \$ POA

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Strengthening network resilience from the skies

Western Power has commenced work to treat more than 19,000 power poles via helicopter across the Mid West and Wheatbelt regions to enhance network resilience and reduce the risk of pole-top fires.

The work involves applying a silicone treatment to Western Power infrastructure within the shires of Carnamah, Chapman Valley, Coorow, Dalwallinu, Dandaragan, Gingin, Goomalling, Greater Geraldton, Irwin, Mingenew, Moora, Morawa, Northampton, Perenjori, Three Springs, Victoria Plains, and Wongan-Ballidu.

Executive Manager of Asset Management Gair Landsborough said dust and airborne pollutants can accumulate on insulators - particularly during harvest season. When combined with light rain or humid conditions, this can cause 'tracking' - where electricity flows across the surface of the insulator potentially causing pole-top fires.

"To mitigate this risk and enhance safety and reliability we apply a silicone treatment to the insulators preventing 'tracking' and the use of helicopters allows us to carry out the work across a vast section of our network efficiently and safely," he said.

"This work forms part of Western Power's broader network resilience program, which aims to improve power reliability across the South-West Interconnected System."

The current phase of work is already underway and is scheduled for completion by mid-2026. Once complete, more than 60,000 poles will have been treated since September 2023, strengthening the network and enhancing power reliability for homes and businesses.

This program complements a package of work that commenced in January to treat an additional 15,900 poles throughout the Wheatbelt region.

To learn more, including where and when work is taking place, visit westernpower.com.au/resources-education/network-improvements/helicopter-line-maintenance.

END



About Western Power:

Western Power is a Western Australian State Government owned corporation responsible for building, maintaining and operating an electricity network which connects our 2.3 million customers to traditional and renewable energy sources, delivering a critical service to the community.

We're at the forefront of the energy industry in leveraging new technologies, including integrating microgrid and battery storage solutions. We're planning the grid of the future that's leading the way to a cleaner, brighter and more resilient energy supply for the next generation.

To find out more visit the Western Power website at www.westernpower.com.au

Western Power Media: media@westernpower.com.au or 1300 139 240 (24 hours)

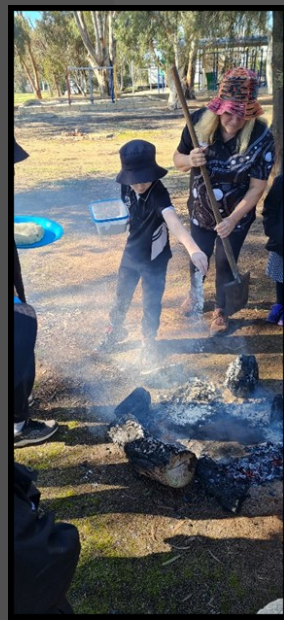




Bolgart Primary School

Phone 0896 275 300

Bolgart.ps@education.wa.edu.au



Senior Room News

The Senior class have begun a new reward system. They now earn money for being at school, completing jobs and demonstrating our PBS focus areas of Respect, Reach, Responsibility and Resilience. However, they also must pay tax, rent their desk and cover the cost of electricity and wifi. The program, Banqer, has learning tasks to help the students understand money. They get paid for completing these activities. To ensure this is realistic the students must also write a written application for a job. If they are not doing their job well they risk losing the job and another student can apply. The students are enjoying seeing their bank account balances climb. Some payments they are receiving are: \$5 for homework/home reading OR \$5 for having your diary on the desk.

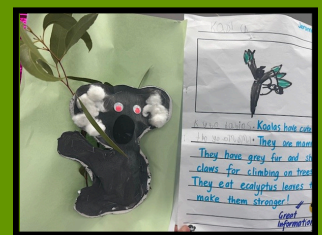
During the school NAIDOC week, we learnt how to cook damper in the traditional way. It was messy but fun. Everyone thought it was delicious, especially with golden syrup drizzled all over it.

During our literacy lessons we learnt about a famous Indigenous man who was an inventor. Did you know the story of David Unaipon? He invented sheep shears. He has been immortalised on the \$50 dollar note to acknowledge his contribution to the Australian wool industry.

Kindy/PP News

In Kindy and Pre-Primary we are learning about animals all over the world and we have been focusing on Australian animals. We have been classifying them and identifying their needs in Science. We also integrated this learning into NAIDOC week as we talked about respect for our land, animals, different cultures and ourselves. We went on a nature walk and made our names from the things we found.

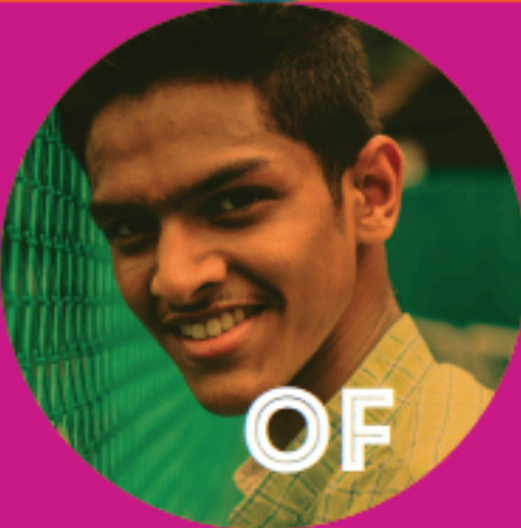
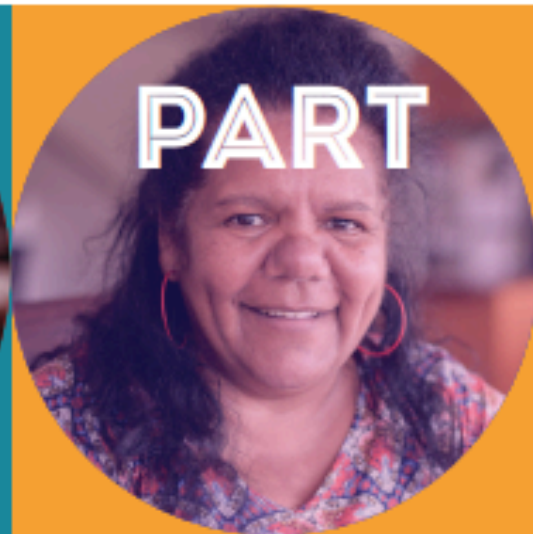
We are delighted to have the senior students spending their bank money by joining us and helping us with our work.



Junior Room News

Last Friday Pre Primary to Year 2 celebrated 100 days of school with a class party. Our theme was 100 DAYS BRIGHTER so it was neon dress-ups for us all! The children had been counting school days since the start of the year, gaining an understanding of 10's and 100 in a relatable context.

We enjoyed some number activities based around 100 and reflected on what we may look like and do when we are 100 years old. We ended the day with a Neon Disco just for fun! Thankyou to all parents who helped students in providing items and neon-themed clothes to celebrate.



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WAtoday

News you need to know today

Nominate now

If you know someone, or a group, doing great things in our community, nominate them for a 2026 Community Citizen of the Year Award, in our four categories.

- > Citizen of the Year
- > Youth Citizen of the Year
- > Senior Citizen of the Year
- > Active Citizenship (Group or Event)

citizenshipawards.com.au | Closing Date: 31 October 2025

Local Government Recognising Community Champions.

COMMUNITY RENEWABLES ENERGY TRANSITION



A workshop for regional communities at the forefront of the energy transition to:

- share information on why we need a transition, what it will look like, and what's needed to ensure it delivers better outcomes for communities and nature.**
- listen to communities about their biggest questions, concerns, and aspirations when it comes to the energy transition.**

Mon 22nd Sept, 5:30pm in Calingiri Emergency Service Building

Tues 23rd Sept, 5:30pm in Mogumber Hall



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