



Contact Us

T 08 9628 7004 | E reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au
28 Cavell Street, Calingiri WA 6569 | www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au



Hello from the Shire President

As autumn settles across the district, the hills are once again turning green, and the rich soils of Victoria Plains are beginning to stir with activity as seed is drilled into paddocks. It is always a special time of year with the landscape coming back to life and farming families preparing for another season ahead. Alongside the busy pace of seeding, our communities continue to come together through events, commemorations and projects that celebrate both our history and our future.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of attending the European Space Agency Open Day at the New Norcia Deep Space Ground Station. It was fantastic to see all 120 tickets snapped up so quickly by locals and their guests, highlighting the strong interest in the international work conducted right here in Victoria Plains. Most pleasing of all was seeing so many space-enthralled children and young people exploring the displays, asking questions and being inspired by the world of science, engineering and space exploration.

The partnership between our rural communities and the space industry continues to create unique opportunities for our district and it was wonderful to see the very first glimpse into the upcoming viewing platform and tourism information pod.

ANZAC Day was once again a significant and moving occasion. With beautiful weather and an increase in attendance at the Shire of Victoria Plains War Memorial, it was heartening to see so many community members, families and visitors come together to pay their respects. The Royal Australian Air Force flyover provided a truly memorable moment during the service and added to the sense of pride and reflection felt throughout the morning. A sincere thank you must go to Mr Gary McGill, Chair of the ANZAC Day Advisory Group and War Memorial Warden, for the enormous amount of work he undertakes behind the scenes each year. Gary's dedication to preserving and presenting our local commemorations is deeply appreciated, and his ANZAC Day address on this year's theme of Australians serving in the Middle East was both thoughtful and informative. Thank you also to the Bolgart CWA for the scrumptious catering following the service, and to the Shire staff and volunteers whose support ensures the day comes to fruition. Like many across the district, I finished the day at the Mogumber Hub to continue the longstanding ANZAC tradition of Two-Up. The evening brought plenty of laughs, banter and friendly competition between mates and new friends alike, reminding us how important these community traditions remain in bringing people together.

Council held its April Ordinary Council Meeting on the last Wednesday of the month. Among the matters considered was a review of the Shire's Customer Service Charter, ensuring our commitment to respectful, transparent and responsive service delivery continues to meet community expectations. Council also formally adopted the Edmonds Street Concept Plan Major Land Trading Undertaking Business Case, an important milestone in progressing future housing opportunities within Calingiri. The project is aimed at supporting key worker housing and strengthening the long-term sustainability of our communities, while maintaining careful financial oversight and staged delivery planning.

And congratulations to New Norcia on being named a finalist in the Tiny Tourism Town Awards. This recognition highlights the unique history, character and tourism experiences our district has to offer. I encourage everyone to jump online and cast a vote in support of New Norcia.

As always, thank you to everyone who continues to volunteer, support local events and contribute to the strength of our communities across the Shire of Victoria Plains.

Hello from the CEO

Over the past month, the Shire has been balancing two big realities at once: the pace of the energy transition across WA, and the practical day-to-day pressures of the fuel situation that is affecting regional communities. Through it all, our focus remains the same – keeping essential services steady, progressing the projects that matter locally, and making sure Victoria Plains has a strong voice in decisions that will shape our future.

The Energy Transition – Commonwealth, State, and our Shire’s ongoing involvement

Victoria Plains continues to be closely involved in the State Government’s Renewable Energy Community Benefits Pilot, working alongside the Shires of Dandaragan, West Arthur and Narrogin. This work is about getting the “how” right – making sure community benefits from large-scale renewable projects are guided by local priorities, transparently governed, and capable of delivering lasting social, economic and cultural outcomes.

We are also staying connected to the broader system changes underway, including the State’s work through PoweringWA and the increasing focus on SWIS upgrade planning and sequencing. Our priority is to ensure regional communities are not left trying to “catch up” after decisions are made – and that local government is recognised as a credible governance partner in the transition.

At the Commonwealth level, we are keeping an eye on how national programs (including investment settings that support new renewable generation and storage) interact with WA’s SWIS pathway and what that could mean for regional corridors, workforce and accommodation pressures, and local contracting opportunities over time.

Edmonds Street Concept Plan – progressing the next steps

Work continues to progress on the Edmonds Street Concept Plan, which is a staged development at Lot 42 Edmond Street in Calingiri designed to help address key worker housing needs and deliver new community facilities. Council has now approved the final business plan that will allow us to pursue the necessary approvals and further funding opportunities to construct the dwellings.

The Concept Plan is structured in two stages – with Stage 1 focused on creating new residential lots, delivering the enabling services, and enabling affordable homes for key workers; and Stage 2 expanding the development and adding further housing and visitor facilities. The intention is to ensure we are planning in a way that is realistic, staged, and aligned with what the community needs most.

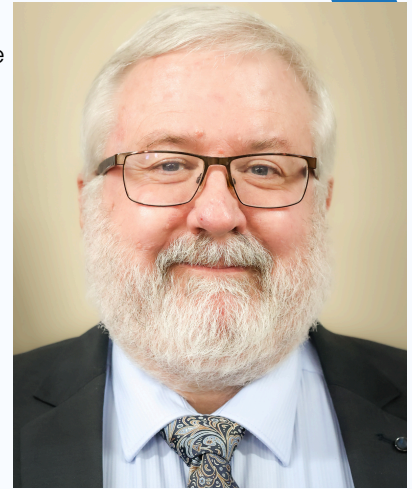
Strategic Community Plan review – thank you, and please keep participating

A genuine thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to provide feedback as part of the major review of the Strategic Community Plan. We have received a good level of early input, and that feedback is helping shape the next planning cycle.

If you would still like to participate, please contact Bridget Ralph at the office – we would very much welcome your views.

Fuel Crisis – impacts, and what the Shire is doing

Like households, farms, and businesses across the district, the Shire is feeling the cost pressure and operational complexity created by the fuel situation. Fuel remains essential to core services such as road maintenance, waste services, community safety and emergency response.



To manage this risk, the Shire has implemented a dedicated Fuel Governance and Action Plan (commenced 10 March 2026), operating as an operational sub-plan within our broader continuity arrangements. In practical terms, this is about being ready to prioritise fuel for essential services if constraints tighten, while continuing to operate normally where possible.

Key actions continue to include:

- establishing a Fuel Governance Committee to oversee fuel-related decisions
- monitoring fuel levels and maintaining an emergency reserve for critical operations
- working directly with our fuel supplier to support continuity of supply
- reviewing service priorities so fuel is used where it is needed most
- coordinating with regional and State agencies – including passing on local impacts and issues being experienced across the district

ESA Visitor Project – momentum, visitation, and a successful Open Day

It has been terrific to see continued progress and community interest in the European Space Agency visitor project at New Norcia / Yarawindah. Stage 1 funding has been received and the viewing module is under construction, with strong engagement already occurring through local government visits and the Open Day.

The Open Day on 18 April recorded 121 visitors, which is an excellent outcome and a real credit to everyone involved. Looking ahead, Stage 2 works will include entry and service road works and associated plantings (with Garli scheduled to commence the main entrance works from 20 May 2026), while the longer-term opportunity remains the future education centre (Stage 3), which will require further funding.

Preparing for advocacy in Canberra

Finally, we are now actively preparing for the next advocacy cycle in Canberra, particularly around the issues that most affect regional councils: housing delivery settings, infrastructure, fuel security and transition governance.

I will be in Canberra during the ALGA Congress in June, and part of the lead-up work is ensuring our messaging is coordinated and focused, including through AMP-UP (Formerly AROC) and broader regional advocacy channels, so that the issues facing communities like ours are clearly understood at the national level.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in Shire matters. The work we do is strongest when it is grounded in local experience and community priorities, and I appreciate everyone who takes the time to stay engaged.





Hello Residents and Ratepayers

The fuel crisis continues to be a focus for the shire, particularly on the impacts to the 26-27 budget but which hasn't crystallised as yet. The issue is so volatile at the moment it is very difficult to predict what it will look like in the future and for the shire, we must insulate for this as best as possible. This will mean a rate increase and a reduction in expenditure, both operating and capital. Accordingly, there should be an expectation of reduced services and capital outcomes as to ensure good financial governance.

I do not expect this to be long term – but I will be recommending to the CEO and Council that we err on the side of caution until we have a better understanding of this.

Finance

As mentioned in previous editions, the Shire has completed the majority of its works prior to the fuel crisis so this has not seen any major impact to costs. The final works in road construction were completed in early May 26 (costs to be reflected next month) which brings this program to a close.

The following provides an update of capital expenditure as at 30 April 26:

Activity	(\$)	Status
Depot Renovations	43,182	In Progress
Toodyay - Bindi Bindi Rd Nth (RRSP)	2,093,476	In Progress
Wongan Hills Waddington Road (RRSP)	661,465	In Progress
Edmonds St Subdivision	203,002	In Progress
Calingiri Playground Equipment	52,297	In Progress
<i>Previously Reported</i>		
Calingiri Pavilion Boiler	27,309	Completed
Depot Carpark	17,294	Completed
Table Top Truck	112,971	Completed
Depot Utility	33,419	Completed
Mogumber Toilets	13,697	Completed
Yerecoin Sth East Rd	783412	Completed
Bolgart East Rd - Seal renewal	77,797	Completed
Poincare St - Seal renewal	48,437	Completed
Cavell St and Haig Intersection	12,427	Completed
Calingiri Youth Park	11,000	Completed
Calingiri Sportsground Lighting	22,835	C/F 24-25 now completed (total cost \$85,804)
Bolgart Skatepark	5,850	Completed
Hydraulic Claw	20,800	Completed
60" Mower	17,842	Completed
Excavator	137,400	Completed
Digital Speed Signs	23,895	Completed
Calingiri War memorial	20,602	Completed
Footpath Program	16,900	Completed

The shire budgeted for further loan funding to purchase two (2) new Graders and this will be delivered in the next few weeks and completing the Plant Replacement Program for this FY.

The shires interim audit is well underway for 25-26 with the auditors planning to undertake the site visit in May 26. Last financial year achieved the lowest number of management findings (2) for several years thanks to improved processes, governance and staff work which I expect to continue on the improvement path this FY.

Administration

The shire has now finalised its transition of financial institutions from Bendigo Bank to the Commonwealth Bank and I take this opportunity to thank Bendigo Bank for its services. The transition itself has been seamless and whilst there were a number of business reasons for the decision, one aspect was the number of ratepayers and other vendors that had the shires bank account details. In the ever-expanding world of cybercriminals, this was considered somewhat of a risk which has now been addressed through the change of banks and the use of BPAY. Whilst there are times when bank account details need to be provided, this is now kept to a minimum.

As BPAY has been available for a couple of years now and most payments to the shire are via this method, if you have previously been paying directly in the shires Bendigo Bank account, you will need to change to the BPAY facility unless other arrangements have already been made.

The shire continues to develop in the AI world and it's pleasing to see staff embracing the technology which whether you like it or not, is here to stay. I must emphasise, AI is just another tool, much the same as we transitioned from the abacus to the calculator and then Microsoft Excel. The goal is to improve and where possible automate to some extent, repetitive processes so that staff can concentrate on the areas where it needs intellect, creating efficiencies and better use of time to gain meaningful outcomes.

CPA Australia quotes "The CPA Australia Business Technology Report 2025 shows that businesses using AI are achieving greater accuracy, efficiency and productivity, along with better employee experiences" and:

"Embracing AI is not optional. It is essential for staying competitive and meeting stakeholder expectations in an increasingly data-driven environment."

Strategic Outcomes

The subdivision continues to progress on target and the Manager Works and Services will provide the physical update next month. From my side, financially we have expended over \$200,000 to date of the \$4.5m project, all of which is grant funded. Once the WA Planning Commission provides its planning approval for infrastructure services, indicatively in late Sep 26, we should start to see a rapid implementation.

The Shires Disaster Recovery Plan is progressing well and I hope to have this ready for council review and then adoption before EOFY. This will be in the form of the Business Continuity Plan as the umbrella for a number of other disaster plans to sit under. Once upon a time we really only needed to focus on natural disasters; bushfires, floods and earthquakes but now there is cybersecurity, IT disaster recovery, aged welfare, and now fuel security to name a few.

As the world changes and new challenges arise, these documents are becoming more and more important to be contemporary, tested and fit for purpose.



Two New Graders Ordered for the Shire

The Shire of Victoria Plains has recently placed an order for two new John Deere 620 GP motor graders, marking a significant investment in the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the local road network. The machines are scheduled for delivery in May 2026 and will join the Works and Services fleet once commissioning and operator training are complete.

The John Deere 620 grader is well-regarded for its reliability, operator comfort, and efficiency, making it well suited to the Shire's extensive rural road system. The new graders will feature modern technology designed to improve grading accuracy, reduce maintenance downtime, and enhance safety for operations staff. These upgrades will support more consistent road surfaces and quicker response times for routine maintenance and post-weather event repairs.



Replacing older plant (CAT and Komatsu with in excess of 14,000 hours each) with contemporary equipment is a key part of the Shire's asset management strategy. The addition of the two 620 graders will help ensure continued delivery of a high standard of service while managing whole-of-life costs and improving productivity across the works program.

Council looks forward to the arrival of the new graders and the benefits they will bring to road users and the wider community throughout the Shire of Victoria Plains.





Hello everyone

April has been a busy and meaningful month across our communities, with seeding underway, ANZAC commemorations, and a range of local gatherings bringing people together.

A sincere congratulations and thank you to Garry McGill and his team for their outstanding efforts in organising this year's ANZAC Day service. Approximately 200 people attended the Calingiri service, demonstrating the strong sense of respect and community spirit we are so proud of. It was especially important that the service recognised all groups—Australian, New Zealand, and Aboriginal peoples—who gave their time and lives in service for the rights we enjoy today. Many attendees commented on how meaningful it was to see this acknowledgement. The kids' displays from the three local primary schools were fantastic.

The Mogumber Dawn Service was also well attended, with around 50 people coming together to listen, reflect, and connect. Following the service, approximately 25 people enjoyed a breakfast generously provided by the Mogumber Progress Association—thank you for your continued support and community spirit.

I would also like to apologise for the technical issues experienced during the Calingiri service, which prevented the music from playing as planned. We appreciate everyone's understanding and are already working to ensure this does not happen again next year. A big thank you once again to the Bolgart CWA for providing a wonderful morning tea—it was truly exceptional and very much appreciated.

Unfortunately, the official opening of the Calingiri Library had to be cancelled. However, the library is now open every Tuesday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and we will reschedule a celebration at a later date. Please keep an eye on social media and the library noticeboard for updates. Rhyme Time is now shared between Calingiri Primary School and the library—please refer to the community calendar or noticeboard for session details.

The Mogumber library has returned to opening two days a week—Mondays and Fridays from 9:00am to 11:00am. Stacey will be there on Mondays, and I will be there on Fridays. Rhyme Time is held at 9:30am each Friday, and everyone is welcome.

Looking ahead, we have another exciting month coming up. One of the key events is the Volunteers Lunch, which will be held on 22 May at the Mogumber Hub. Please join us for a roast lunch as we recognise and thank the many volunteers who contribute so much to our community. Mogumber continues to show incredible community spirit, and we would love to see a strong turnout to celebrate the great work happening across the Shire.

Yerecoin Primary School recently participated in Clean Up Australia Day, focusing on the back walkway between the school and the Yerecoin Wayside. A big thank you to our Ranger Pete from Canine Control for donating prizes for the most enthusiastic participants—your support is greatly appreciated.

Calingiri Primary School will also be hosting their clean up Australia day later this month.

Looking further ahead, Bolgart CWA will once again host an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on 10 June. This is always a fantastic event, and we're sure this year will be no exception.

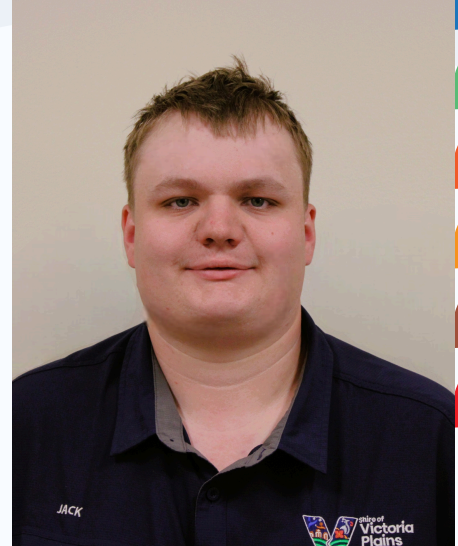
Hello Everyone

The 1st of April saw the commencement of the unrestricted burning period as our farmer community starts to undertake seeding, and with the high threat period behind us for now, we have transitioned to focus on Prevention and Preparedness activities.

The Shire held its post season Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting, providing an opportunity to debrief from the bushfire season, with focus around the December 25 Mogumber Bushfire and looking into new initiatives to strengthen our response going forward.

The EM team also had the opportunity to attend the District Emergency Management Committee meeting and annual exercise. This forum facilitates high level discussion about district preparedness for several agencies and LGA's. The exercise focused on water supply disruption, leaving the team with takeaways to improve our resilience as a LG.

The Shire in conjunction with local stakeholders is continuing to work on Bushfire mitigation works around the Shire. With mulching works in the pipeline to be completed over the winter period. Stay tuned to the Shires' Facebook page for further updates.



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.

Calingiri Bush Fire Brigade – A Valued Community Asset

The Shire is calling on community support to help strengthen and revitalise the Calingiri Bush Fire Brigade, which plays a vital role in keeping our district safe.

Made up of dedicated local volunteers, the brigade is an essential part of our emergency response, but its future relies on increased community involvement. Whether as an active firefighter or in a support role, all contributions are valued, and training is provided.

The Shire is also exploring opportunities to improve the Emergency Services building and will be hosting a community get-together in June for residents to learn more, get involved, and help shape the future of local bushfire services.

Understanding Dog Numbers on Your Property

Keeping dogs is a valued part of many households, but it's important to ensure numbers remain manageable, safe, and appropriate for the property. Understanding the rules – and the responsibilities that come with them – helps protect animal welfare and maintain harmony in the community.

Council Guidelines on Dog Numbers

Most local governments set limits on how many dogs can be kept on a property without special approval. These limits are designed to ensure:

- Adequate space for each animal
- Proper care and attention
- Reduced risk of nuisance to neighbours
-

If you keep more than the permitted number of dogs without approval, you may be in breach of local laws and subject to compliance action.

Applying for an Exemption

If you wish to keep more dogs than the standard allowance, you may apply for an exemption. Approval is not automatic and is assessed carefully.

Applications typically consider:

- Property size and suitability
- Facilities such as fencing, shelter, and cleanliness
- The ability to manage noise, waste, and animal welfare
- Neighbour impact

To apply, contact the Shire and complete the relevant application form. Inspections may be required before approval is granted.

Welfare and Nuisance Risks of Too Many Dogs

Keeping more dogs than a property can support can lead to a range of concerns, including:

- Excessive barking due to competition, boredom, or stress
- Odour and waste build-up affecting hygiene and neighbours
- Increased aggression or conflict between dogs
- Reduced individual care, including exercise and attention

These issues can escalate quickly and may result in complaints or formal enforcement

Space, Enrichment, and Exercise Matter

Every dog needs an environment that supports both physical and mental wellbeing. This becomes even more important when multiple dogs are present.

Owners should ensure:

- Sufficient space for dogs to move freely and rest comfortably
- Daily exercise suited to each dog's needs
- Enrichment activities such as toys, training, and interaction
- Clean living conditions with regular waste removal

A well-managed property supports calm, healthy dogs and reduces the likelihood of nuisance behaviour.



Maximum of 2
dogs per property
(Shire approval
required for
more)



The Bolgart Branch CWA are having

AUSTRALIA'S

BIGGEST

MORNING TEA



TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CANCER COUNCIL



**WEDNESDAY
10TH JUNE
2026**



10:00 AM



**BOLGART
MEMORIAL HALL**



**ENTRY
\$10
EVERYONE
IS WELCOME!**

Join us for a wonderful morning featuring:



DELICIOUS HOMEMADE FOOD



**ENDLESS CUPS OF
TEA & COFFEE**



GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES



DOOR PRIZE



**GOOD FUN &
EXCELLENT COMPANY**

Come and join us

**TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A VERY WORTHY CAUSE.
SUPPORTING THE CANCER COUNCIL.**

RSVP (FOR CATERING PURPOSES):

TEXT 0400 219 965

BY WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE



Good food, great company, a morning that makes a difference!





OPEN TRAINING NIGHTS

See your local ambulance service up close at the Victoria Plains Training Room

Interested in volunteering or learning more?

Wednesday **17 June** & Wednesday **16 September, 6:30pm** - Seminar Room, New Norcia — Education Centre (north end, near new flour mill)

For more information contact

Tracy Sievwright on 0400 999 593 or Emma Kelly 0427 515 021





VOLUNTEERS

COME ALONG AND SHARE LUNCH WITH US AT THE MOGUMBER HUB AS WE CELEBRATE THE WONDERFUL CONTRIBUTION OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE TO THE COMMUNITY. IT'S A CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU, CATCH UP, AND ENJOY SOME TIME TOGETHER.

12:00 NOON | 22 MAY 2026

National 18-24 MAY 2026
Volunteer
YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER **Week**





Wheatbelt Families and Children Early Childhood Expo

Saturday 13th June
10am-2pm

Wongan Hills Civic Centre

Free entry includes a free goodie bag
and activities for families and children

Come and connect and be inspired by professionals, groups and resources that are available to all families and children in the Wheatbelt region. The expo is targeted at anyone involved with young children, who is interested in learning about what is on offer to help children to learn, develop and thrive.

With visits
from the
Cuddly Farm



Supported By



ANZAC Celebrations

Students from Yerecoin Primary attended the Shire of Victoria Plains ANZAC Ceremony.



School ANZAC Ceremony



Mr Donnellan - our RSL guest

Clean Up Australia Day

A big thank you to Bridget from the Shire of Victoria Plains for coming to our school on Clean Up Australia Day and for the yummy sausage sizzle! Thank you to the Shire for also donating amazing prizes for our Eco-Warriors.



What's Been Happening at Yerecoin PS?!



Crazy Hair Day Philanthropy

Our student council raised a total of \$85.00 which has been donated to WARPNINE Inc.



WARPNINE is a West Australian not-for-profit group researching clinical trials for various cancers.



Aussie of The Month:

To Taha, for regularly demonstrating one of the Nine values for Australian Schooling. "Doing Your Best."



Thank you from our Kindy friends!

Thank you to the Shire of Victoria Plains for donating funds for our Better Beginnings packs!







HEROES TO HUB



**IGNITED BY COURAGE
CARRIED BY HEART**

Join us for Heroes to Hub, a powerful 26km run inspired by two young lives forever changed by the care and courage of the RFDS.

Event Details

-  Date: Saturday, 11th July 2026
-  Route: Newhome Farm to Mogumber Hub
-  Distance: 26km Run, Walk, or Ride
-  Goal: Raise \$26,000 for RFDS



Register, donate or
learn more here

Interested in Volunteering, Participating, or Fundraising?
Contact Kym at 0427 531 668 or Erin at 0428 490 920
for more information.





Shire of

**Victoria
Plains**

Space to Grow



MOGUMBER LIBRARY OPEN

MONDAY AND FRIDAY

9AM-11AM

CALINGIRI LIBRARY OPEN

TUESDAY

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

OLD ROAD BOARD CALINGIRI

COME SIT AND HAVE A CHAT WE
ARE HERE TO LISTEN AND HELP



TAKE THE CORELLA BEHAVIOUR SURVEY

AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

WHY TAKE THE SURVEY?



Corellas have become a feature of our

landscape. This survey aims to identify where the corellas are nesting and roosting, as well as general patterns of behaviour.

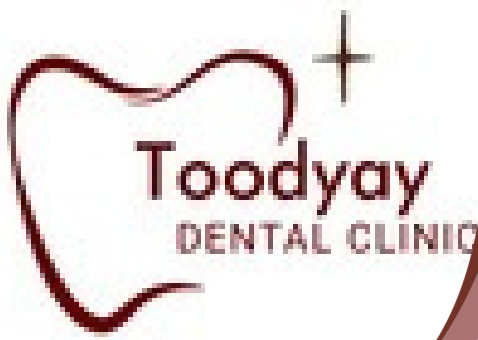
The Corella Behaviour Survey, in conjunction with DNA analysis being completed by **Edith Cowan University** and ecological observations in the field, will inform future management decisions. Your sightings can make a difference:



Scan the QR code or use the following link to complete the survey: <https://arcg.is/195DqD1>



wheatbelt
natural resource
management



Missing a Tooth? We Can Help

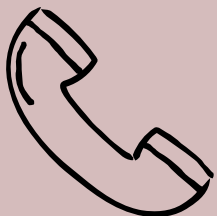
Replacement Options

At Toodyay Dental Clinic, we offer a range of reliable replacement options including:

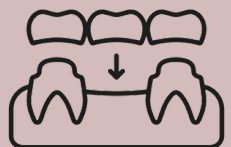
- bridges
- dentures
- dental implants

Restore your smile, confidence, and function with care you can trust.

Call us today to book your consultation.



08 9574 2333



94 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566
toodyaydentalclinic@outlook.com



YERECOIN TRADERS

Little Country Store & Café

38 Miling Rd,
Yerecoin WA 6571

(08) 9654 6015

Open Monday - Friday: 7am-5pm Saturday: 8am-12pm



The best food and coffee in town!

Coffee • Lunch • Catering • Meals2Go • Venue hire
Our famous Saturday breakfast • Fully licensed
YT App • And much more!

Fancy a \$10 store voucher?

Sign up here!



 @yerecointraders

 Yerecoin Traders

 yerecointraders.com.au