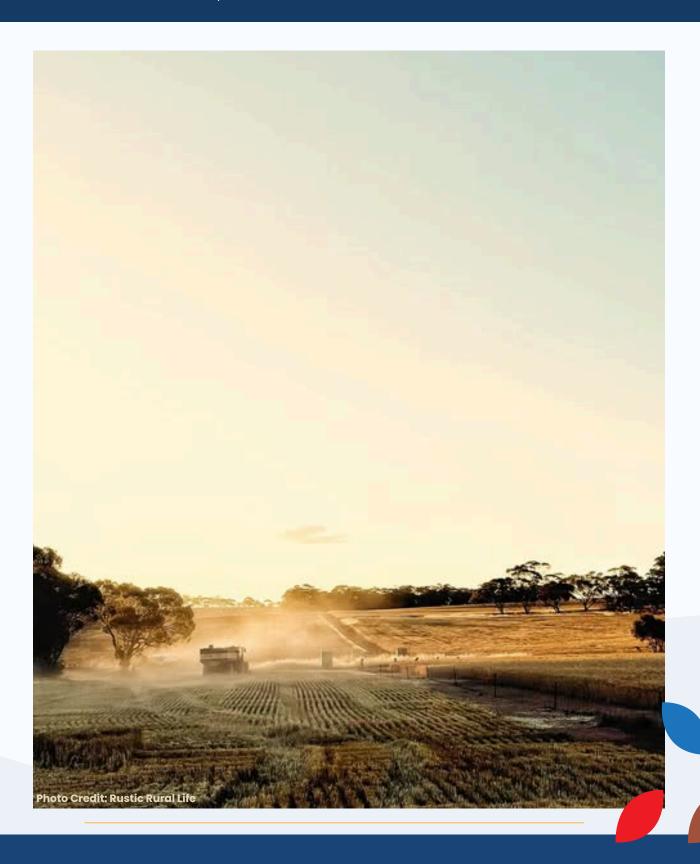


# NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



# **Contact Us**

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



# SHIRE PRESIDENT

# **PAULINE BANTOCK**



I'm delighted to welcome our newly elected Councillors, Cr Liz Williams and Cr Neil Smith, and to congratulate Cr Suzanne Woods on her re-election. With this new Council now in place, I'm confident we'll bring a strong mix of experience, enthusiasm, and shared commitment to advancing the Shire's priorities.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to my fellow Councillors for entrusting me with the role of Shire President for a further two-year term. It is an honour to continue representing the Shire of Victoria Plains in this capacity.

Having now completed ten years on Council, including six years as Shire President, I remain immensely proud of the progress we have achieved together—strengthening governance, building partnerships, and advancing projects that enhance the liveability and sustainability of our district.

Congratulations to Cr Woods for her re-election as Deputy President, who's strong support I am grateful of.

Following the recent election, Council has finalised appointments to a range of committees, advisory bodies and stakeholder groups, ensuring representation across local and regional forums. These appointments are vital to maintaining effective collaboration, advocacy, and shared decision-making with our partners in government, industry, and the wider Wheatbelt community.

# **Councillor Induction**

On Saturday, 25 October, Councillors attended a comprehensive induction session in Toodyay for both new and returning members. The session featured presentations from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA, the Wheatbelt Development Commission, and Regional Development Australia – Wheatbelt. The day provided valuable insights into the evolving landscape of local government and reinforced our shared commitment to good governance and community service.

# **Energy Transition**

On 3 November, representatives from Powering WA met with the Shire CEO and several Councillors in Calingiri to discuss the ongoing energy transition and its impact on regional communities. This was followed by my attendance at the CEDA Energy Outlook Event in Perth on 5 November, where it was encouraging to see communication channels between regional stakeholders and energy providers continuing to strengthen. These conversations are an important step in ensuring our Shire remains informed and engaged as Western Australia transitions toward a more sustainable energy future.

# **Bush Fire Advisory Committee**

Earlier, on 15 October, I attended the Shire's Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting. The new 7:30 am format proved highly effective, allowing community representatives to work through the agenda early while enjoying a hearty bacon and egg roll breakfast kindly provided by the Shire. I extend my thanks to all our brigade members, volunteers, and emergency services staff for their dedication as we enter another fire season. With our first fires occurring before the end of October, your preparedness and commitment are deeply appreciated. We continue to plan for the worst, while hoping for a safe and uneventful season ahead.

Wishing our community a safe and productive harvest, and it's hard to believe we are just weeks away from December.



# HIEF EXECUTIVE SEAN FLETCHER

# Hello from the CEO

Since my last update to you, quite a bit has been going on!

New Look Council for the Next Two Years

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge and welcome Cr Suzanne Woods re-election to Council, and the election success of Cr Neil Smith and Cr Liz Williams. Cr Smith served on Council over 20 years ago and Cr Williams is a first time elected member.

I am also pleased to advise that Cr Pauline Bantock was re-elected as the Shire President and Cr Suzanne Woods was re-elected as the Deputy Shire President.

The Shire will continue to have a heavy workload during the next two years, and Council will have a workload that will correspond with this.



# **Housing Support Program**

Housing Support Program Community Enabling Infrastructure Fund - Edmond Street Development I am pleased to advise that I have now signed off on the funding agreement with WA Treasury which will the Commonwealth pay the State \$32.8M for the Wheatbelt Regional Housing Alliance project, led by the Shire of Victoria Plains. The Shire will receive \$4.5M to develop the land for the Edmonds Street housing/accommodation project in Calingiri, which gets underway mid-November 2025.

I presented to the Wheatbelt Leadership Group in early November regarding this housing initiative, explaining how building homes for key workers is not only of economic benefit but for the social fabric of our local government districts as well.

I am now seeking funding to build the first five homes for the Edmonds Street site.

# **Corella Management Program**

It has been some time since an update has been provided on the AROC Corella Management Program. However, I am happy to report the following:

- A coordinated shoot is planned across the five shires, in March/April of next year. It is hoped at least 1,500 birds will be culled as a result;
- It has taken quite some time to get approval to use Alphachloralose, the sleeping agent that we will use in an initial trial with DPIRD to knock out corellas and at selected locations and then dispose of them humanely. This will happen in the autumn/winter months on the back of the coordinated shoot;
- From January 2026, a new survey will open for community members to report any corella sightings and destructive activity.

One road block we have encountered is the new firearms legislation. This has now made the issue of local governments shooting pests on its own land a red tale night mare. However, we are working with Wheatbelt NRM to identify a clear way forward with WAPOL.

On the back of the work that we have undertaken within the Corella Steering Committee, there is DNA research being undertaken, an analysis of the current flocks across the AROC local governments and CBH as well as the development of further reports for research and general information purposes.

I would also like to wish the District a fantastic harvest as we now head into the warmer months!



# DEPUTY CHIEF COLIN ASHE EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# **Hello Residents and Ratepayers**

And now for cricket! – The west test will be the opener for the summer series and will be a much-anticipated Ashes contest, especially after the spicy series in the UK. I think the test itself has been sold out so I hope we can get the jump on Poms (not sure if I'm allow to use that term these days...oh well its said!).

# **Finance**

The Annual Financial Statements 24-25 have now been audited and are currently with the Office of Auditor General for final review. At this point I'm pleased to advise the shire will receive a clean audit opinion which has been the case for the last three years and the management report will have two issues, one of which has been long standing but minor.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all my team for the effort they have put in for the audit itself, but embracing the new financial system, of which 24-25 was the first full year in operation. This was very hard work to get up and running and we're still learning but we now are seeing the benefits of this, one aspect being the audit itself in terms of the outcome, but also being able to find the information required by the auditors. The Auditors made comment they were pleasantly surprised at the clarity and ease of finding the information.

I would also like to recognise Glenn Deocampo who manages the audit for the shire. As Glenn has done, certainly since I have been here and probably before my time, it's well organised and I have minimal intervention in the process itself – it all just happens so thank you Glenn.

Capital expenditure is progressing slowly as reflected in the Sep 25 monthly financial statements but this is to be expected. Residents and Ratepayers will physically have seen progress on Road Construction during Oct and Nov 25 but these costs are yet to hit the financials as yet. It is expected a good portion of the program will be completed in Nov and Dec 25 and accordingly, reflecting in the following months. For Sep 25:

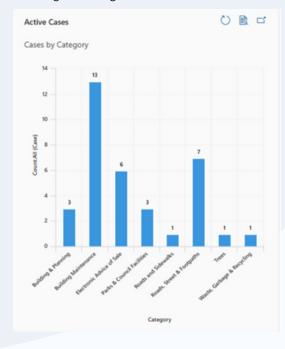
| Activity                        | c/F (\$) | Status  |  |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| Calingiri Pavilion Boiler       | 27,309   | Completed                                     |  |
| Calingiri Sportsground Lighting | 22,835   | C/F 24-25 now completed (total cost \$85,804) |  |
| Bolgart Skatepark               | 5,850    | Completed                                     |  |
| Hydraulic Claw                  | 20,800   | Completed                                     |  |
| 60" Mower                       | 15,909   | Completed                                     |  |
| Calingiri Youth Park            | 5,500    | In Progress                                   |  |
| Footpath Program                | 16,900   | Completed                                     |  |
| Truck Parking Bay - Yerecoin    | 10,120   | C/F 24-25 now completed (total cost \$18,620) |  |

# **CONTINUED ON FROM COLIN ASHE**

# Administration

There were 56 jobs logged in the shires Customer Relations Management System (CRMS) in Oct 25 of which 21 or 37% related to building maintenance on shire assets and currently 13 remained unresolved as at 31 Oct 25.

Overall, there are 35 cases still outstanding of which there is 9 for building maintenance, 7 for works and 5 for Building, Planning and Health.



The team participated in Halloween during October and whilst this is more an American thing, I'll take any excuse for the team to unplug and have some light-hearted moments given the consistent great service they provide to the shire. I think Liz stole the show with her effort and some of the team asked if I could keep my mask on permanently (not sure what they meant by that  $\odot$ ).

# Governance

During Oct 25 an Internal Controls Review was conducted on several financial processes as required under Local Government Regulations.

I am pleased to advise on the whole there were very few negative findings which is another good outcome. As with all reviews this was a useful exercise as we strive for continued improvement and more importantly, can provide ratepayers transparency and assurance that processes are in good order.

The findings will be presented to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in Nov 25.





# MANAGER WORKS AND SERVICES

# **Roads to Recovery**

The 25/26 Roads to Recovery program has been completed. This included reseals to 3 Calingiri intersections, Poincare Street and 900 meters of Bolgart East Road. The final works of widening Yerecoin South East Road has taken all of the 3 meter existing to 7 meters wide.

This involved shire staff working on the gravel shoulders and some vegetation control then SafeRoads WA corrected the edges on the seal ready for the widening. A 100mm overlap onto the existing seal helps with preventing the join from failing. There will be some minor repairs to some of these joins in certain areas prior to next years reseal of a 14/10mm reseal to the entire surface. (This is a 14mm aggregate overlayed with 10mm aggregate which helps fill in the larger spaces and creates a better cover and a quieter drive).

Shortly, new white delineators will be replaced to the edges.



# **Vegetation Clearance**

Vegetation clearances have been completed on Waddington–Wongan Hills Road in preparation for edge widening works along the full 5.3 km to the boundary. SafeRoads WA will commence these works on 11 November, which will include similar activities to those undertaken on Yerecoin–Southeast Road. Some gravel import will be required for this work, along with traffic control.

This project is funded by the Federal and State Governments under the Regional Road Safety Program (RRSP). The works will widen the road by 500 mm on each side, followed by the application of audible line marking along the edges and centre.

The roadworks are expected to be completed by the end of November, before moving on to Toodyay–Bindi Bindi Road. This 23.3 km section, from the Toodyay boundary through to the Goomalling Road intersection, is part of the same funding program (RRSP).

Vegetation clearing is currently underway in preparation for SafeRoads WA to commence works once they have finished at Piawaning.

Once all roadworks are finalised, line marking will be completed.





# COMMUNITY RALPH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



# Another jam-packed month finished, and harvest is on!

I've attended a few Progress meetings across the Shire and have more coming up. If your organisation has a meeting planned, please get in touch so I can come along and support in any way I can.

Thank you to everyone for your feedback on the community calendar. It's even fuller this month with Christmas celebrations happening all over the Shire. Please keep me updated on what's happening in your community. If you're looking for events in our Shire, be sure to check out the calendar or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

The Success in the Bush Forum in Perth—attended by Sean Fletcher, Councillor Pauline Bantock, Anne Marie, and Kim, representing the Calingiri and Bolgart Progress Associations—was a great day of networking and

learning about volunteering and how to support our communities and citizens to thrive. It was inspiring to hear from three locally owned hotels about how they identified a need in their communities and made things happen. Pauline spoke passionately about the Mogumber Hub and how her community developed and delivered the idea.

The National Australia Day Council has accepted our grant application, and I encourage any community group to consider submitting an expression of interest to host the Australia Day event. Expressions of interest close on 18th November. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me at the Shire on 9628 7004. It's a great fundraiser and a lovely opportunity to showcase your town.

Well done to the Calingiri Progress Association for running a successful Halloween event! Over 20 children came dressed in costumes, enjoyed a parade, and took part in crafts. A good time was had by all.

# **Environment Advisory Group (EAG)**

A working group called the Environment Advisory Group (EAG) has been formed by Council to inform itself on current and developing environmental matters and issues and to help shape its decisions on the future of our natural environment.

The EAG will comprise a shire officer, a councillor and a community member.

We're looking for a passionate local resident to nominate themselves as the community member for the Group.

Initially, work of the EAG will include:

- · Implementation of the Shire's Biodiversity Plan
- · Corella management
- · Flora and fauna conservation
- · Other key environmental issues affecting the Shire

If you are passionate about protecting and enhancing our local environment and have some experience in this area, we'd love to hear from you!

Applications should be emailed to reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au and include your name, address and contact details and a brief statement outlining any relevant experience you may have in this area and your particular interest in environment matters in our Shire. Closing date for submissions is 5.00pm on 28th November 2025.

Enquiries regarding the EAG can be made via email to Gordon Houston of the Shire's development Services team at <a href="mailto:ehobs@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au">ehobs@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au</a>.



# ctoria dins the EMERGENCY VAN VOORST MANAGEMENT OFFICER

# Hello Everyone

October has kept the Emergency Management team busy getting ready for the bushfire season which is well and truly here. The team had the opportunity to attend several of the brigade preseason meetings this year, and with the support of our local St John Volunteers we were able to upskill our volunteers in the use of AEDs and CPR, both lifesaving in times of emergency.

# Prohibited Burning Period: 1st November - 28th February\*

\*Subject to seasonal conditions

The Shire of Victoria Plains has entered the prohibited burning period as of the 1st of November 2025.



A reminder to all residents of the Shire of Victoria Plains that no burning activities are permitted during this period at any time. Prohibited Burning Period dates may be amended, subject to prevailing seasonal conditions.

Report all signs of smoke or fire to 000.

# Harvest, Bailing and Offroad activities

As the Shire has now entered the Prohibited burning period, landowners are reminded that for any operations being conducted in paddocks such as harvesting, chaining, raking stubble, straw baling and associated allied activities. A Firefighting unit in a state of readiness with 400L of Water, powered pump and 20m of hose must be present.

This unit should be parked on bare ground within or close to the paddock where operations are being undertaken.

# **Brigades Better Equipped**

Earlier this year the shire was successful in securing grant funding on behalf of local BFB from Western Power and Bushfires Volunteers Association of WA to purchase MAXTRAX recovery boards for the Bolgart, Calingiri, and Yerecoin/Piawaning Bush Fire Brigades.

Preseason meetings presented us the opportunity to hand over this equipment to the successful recipients.







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**TEST DRIVE** 



\$64,890\*

**Excluding Govt Charges** 

# Form 19. Results of Election

Local Government Act 1995, s.4.77

### RESULTS OF ELECTION FOR Shire of Victoria Plains

Date of election: 18 October 2025

| COUNCILLORS | 5 |
|-------------|---|
|-------------|---|

Quota: 81

| Candidate      | First-preference votes | Votes at last count |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| WOODS, Suzanne | 123                    | 81                  |
| SMITH, Neil    | 108                    | 81                  |
| O'BRIEN, Gary  | 41                     | 58                  |
| WILLIAMS, Liz  | 49                     | 81                  |

Name of first candidate to backfill:

O'BRIEN, Gary

Name of second candidate to backfill:

No candidate

The following people are elected as councillors for the Victoria Plains District.

Each councillor will hold office until the date set out next to the councillor's name.

A document detailing the distribution of preference votes is available on the official website of the local government.

| Name                    | Expiry of term  |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Suzanne WOODS           | 20 October 2029 |
| Neil John SMITH         | 20 October 2029 |
| ELIZABETH ANNE WILLIAMS | 20 October 2029 |

| Returning Officer | Full name: Robert William DEW |       |            |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
|                   | Signature:                    | Date: | 18/10/2025 |



Bolgart Primary School Phone 0896 275 300 Bolgart.ps@education.wa.edu.au









# Senior Room News

In term 3, the senior class began projects in **Geography** on a country - Australia for year 3/4 and A South American country for the year 5/6 students. We are continuing this as we write information reports on aspects of these countries during **English**. Many interesting facts have been discovered about how unique Australia is and how diverse the world environments are.

As part of the research has also been finding out about a chosen endangered animal. We have researched a rare animal before designing and building a model of an animal enclosure for a breeding program. This has been a very messy **Design and Technology** project. Now we just need to persuade the 'Zoo Board' to build an enclosure for each chosen animal. This will be a persuasive speech with a supportive PowerPoint.

During **Maths** this year the senior class have been focused on improving the speed and accuracy of their math skills. Using our daily basic facts practice, JEMM and JEMM+ all students have improved maths vocabulary and basic facts skills. This is making it much easier to complete more complex maths tasks.

Year3/4 students have been learning about types of angles and how to measure them with a protractor.

**Science** has now moved to Chemistry. Its been fun playing with different types of matter. Is oobleck a solid or a liquid?? Follow the recipe to make your own to find out. Did you know that some states of matter can be compressed? Its because the molecules are less dense. The year 5/6 students tested this theory.

### **Junior Room News**

In the Junior room we are Moving onto the Transport theme and People in the Community. We are going to be working together to construct a large vehicle from recycled materials. Hopefully we will have some special visitors from the community to talk to us about the jobs they do.

We are learning about the 'Chemical' component in Science this term, so we are conducting experiments to see what changes are made. This also ties in with Maths as we are learning about capacity and measurement. We are going to measure ingredients to make potions! We will also consolidate our skills to follow instructions and measure ingredients when cooking.

During HASS we are investigating communities and the people and places that make our community special.

Students are also super excited to explore this terms Design and Technology project. We have been brainstorming materials we can use to design and create a shelter for their chosen animal...so far these include horses, caterpillars, dogs, cats and a snake! We can't wait to test their creations in different types of weather to see how they hold up!

The Children have shown great resilience with classroom and teacher changes and they are improving their ability to work independently so everyone can learn and achieve success at their own level.





# **GILLINGARRA CHRISTMAS TREE 2025**

# A Free Community Event

Saturday 6 December @ old Gillingarra Primary School

GAMES: 3.30pm

Ice your own Christmas Donut!!!!!

Items up to \$15-\$20 to be placed in the garden shed with Green doors and prior to 4pm.

SANTA TO ARRIVE 4.30 PM SHARP

Please bring a plate of FINGER FOOD to share cut up prior and ready to serve.

No heating facilities available. BYO Beverages

Facebook: Gillingarra Christmas Tree

All ages plus any extra friends and family all welcome











# Stolen Generations Redress Scheme

### What the Scheme offers

- A one-off payment of \$85,000
- Opportunity for a personal acknowledgement from a representative of the WA Government.

### You can apply if:

- You are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person;
- You were removed from your family when you were under 18 years old;
- You were removed in Western Australia before 1 July 1972; and
- Are a living person.

You can also apply on behalf of a family member who passed away on or after 27 May 2025, the date the Scheme was announced.

### How to apply:

- Download an Application Form using the link <a href="https://www.wa.gov.au/media/157336/download?inline">https://www.wa.gov.au/media/157336/download?inline</a>
- Fill out the form
- Print the form to sign it

### OF

• If you need a paper form sent to you, please contact the Department at WASG@dpc.wa.gov.au or call 08 6552 5050.



Dear Shire of Victoria Plains Community Groups and Associations,

The Shire's Australia Day Event, to be held on Monday January 26th 2026, is currently being organised after notification that we have been successful in the National Australia Day Council grant funding program, and as such, we are now calling for Expressions of Interest for the venue host.

The costs associated directly with the Australia Day event are covered under the grant funding received. Grant funding cannot be spent on new infrastructure for venues and the committee chosen for hosting the event, will be required for helping with event organisation, on the day of the event and cooking of breakfast.

If your group or association are wanting to be considered for hosting our 2026 Australia Day Event, we ask that you please make sure that your venue is large enough to host this event and have the facilities needed. We are expecting up to approximately 100 people to attend, and the Shire is also looking into inflatables to hire. There could be up to 3 different inflatables that will be set up for use on the morning that can go on all surfaces with specifications as follows:

# Inflatable 1 will need -

- 10amp power outlet
- Area required is 6m wide x 7m long x 5m high
- 1 x standard tap for hose connection within 30m of setup

# Inflatable 2 will need -

- 4 x 10 AMP power outlets (or 2 x 9KVA Generators will run both)
- Area required is 10m long x 7m wide x 5m high
- 1x standard tap for hose connection within 30m of setup

# Inflatable 3 will need -

- No power required
- Area required is 5m long x 3m wide x 3m high
- Access to tap

Could you please indicate your organisation's interest and capacity to host this event by close of business 18th of November 2025, noting a response to your EOI will be provided to you following the November Council Meeting, currently set for Wednesday 26th of November 2025.

Your time and interest in this matter is appreciated.

# Upcoming the Suents in the Shire



12

2 PM

Bolgart CWA Meeting

NOV

13

9:30 AM

Art Society Calingiri Hall NOV

13

5 PM

Wannamal Social Tennis and Dinner NOV

14-16

7:30 PM

New Norcia Balance and Serenity Weekend



NOV

701

Yerecoin Social Tennis

NOV 14

9 AM

Ladies Bowls Bolgart Championship Pairs NOV

20

9:30 AM

Art Society Calingiri Hall

NOV

6 PM

Wannamal Social Tennis and Dinner NOV

20

8:50 AM

Bolgart Primary Assembly NOV

21

7 PM Robert Zielinski and Manuela Centanni in concert New Norcia NOV

22

8:30 AM

Yerecoin Markets

NOV

9 AM

Bolgart Bowls Men's Pennants Vs Toodyay

23

3 PM

Yerecoin Social Tennis

**26** 

2 PM

Shire Council Meeting

NOV

9:30 AM

Art Society Calingiri Hall NOV 27 1:30 PM Bolgart Bowls Ladies Club Day

NOV 30 3 PM Yerecoin Social Tennis

DEC

6

9 AM
Bolgart Bowls
Mens Pennants VS

Beverly

DEC 10 2 PM Bolgart CWA Meeting

DEC
12
6 PM
Calingiri Primary
End of Year Concert
@ Calingiri PS

DEC 18 5 PM Wannamal Social Tennis and Dinner NOV 27 6 PM Wannamal Social Tennis and Dinner

DEC 4

Bolgart Bowls Ladies Club Day

DEC

3:30 PM

Gillingarra Christmas
Tree

DEC 11 6 PM

Wannamal Social Tennis and Dinner

DEC 14 3 PM

Yerecoin Social Tennis

DEC 18 9:30 AM Art Society

Calingiri Hall

DEC

NOV

**Bolgart Bowls** 

Men's Pennants vs

6 PM Wannamal Social Tennis and Dinner

**DEC 6 7.0**M

3 PM New Norcia Musical Soiree, Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber

DEC 11

Bolgart Bowls Ladies Gala Day

17

Shire Council Meeting

J J

18 9:30 AM Bolgart Bowls Christmas Windup **29**6 PM
New Norcia

Abbott's Table Spring

NOV

DEC **4** 

9:30 AM Art Society Calingiri Hall

**DEC 7**3 PM

Yerecoin Social Tennis

DEC 11

9:30 AM Art Society Calingiri Hall

1**7** 

5 PM Bolgart Primary End of Year Concert Bolgart Hall

**21** 

Yerecoin Social Tennis



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