

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Djilba edition of the quarterly newsletter for the Shire of Nannup, where we aim to keep you updated on the activities of the Shire.

We hope you enjoy reading about the projects being delivered to support the Nannup Strategic Community Plan, build community vibrancy, and connect and grow our shire.

# NGOOLARK JUMP PARK

## A New Chapter in Nannup's Trail Town Journey

Nannup has officially marked a significant milestone with the grand opening of the Ngoolark Mountain Bike (MTB) Jump Park. This latest addition to Nannup's growing selection of trails signals the Shire's continued commitment to becoming a premier destination for mountain biking enthusiasts.

Shire President Tony Dean, joined by Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson, presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony, heralding the jump park as more than just a series of trails and jumps. "It all began with a dream to transform a disused motocross track into a vibrant space where both beginners and seasoned riders can hone their skills and enjoy the thrill of biking," President Dean said. "This park represents a vision for our community and is a testament to what we can achieve when we come together with a common purpose."

The Ngoolark MTB Jump Park, named in honour of the white-tailed black cockatoo (Ngoolark in the Noongar language), reflects the deep cultural heritage of the area. The park's name was chosen after careful consultation with the Karri Karak Aboriginal Corporation and local Knowledge Holders, ensuring that this new community asset honours the significance of its location.

Designed and constructed by Three Chillies Design, the park features two thrilling downhill jump lines and a return trail, offering an exhilarating experience for riders of all levels.



Shire President Tony Dean & Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson residing over the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Ngoolark Mountain Bike Jump Park.

The trails were built using poly pave, a local Western Australian product, ensuring durability and a decade-long life cycle before requiring maintenance.

President Dean emphasised the collaborative effort behind the park's construction, involving local, State, and Federal governments, along with the Nannup Mountain Bike Club. "Together, we have invested in a project that not only boosts our local economy but promotes a healthy, active lifestyle," he said. "The construction of this park and other trail-town assets has already had a positive impact on our community, creating permanent jobs and laying the foundation for future growth as Nannup continues to develop as a Trail Town."

The opening also saw the inaugural Gravity Groms event, organised by the Nannup Mountain Bike Club (NMBC). The event was a resounding success, with riders of all ages and skill levels participating in party trains, costume contests, and enjoying plenty of prizes. The Shire of Nannup supported the event by providing bikes, helmets, and extra giveaways from the 2023 Family Fun Day, courtesy of the Road Safety Commission WA's bike safety initiative.

As Ngoolark MTB Jump Park opens its trails to the public, it not only enhances the outdoor recreation opportunities in Nannup but also strengthens the town's position as a leading Trail Town destination. The park is poised to attract visitors from near and far, offering a place where skills are sharpened, adventures are shared, and lasting memories are made.

# CONNECT AND GROW

The Shire of Nannup continues to make significant strides in enhancing community infrastructure and hosting events that foster growth and connection. Recent projects, such as the completion of Jephson Street's upgrade and ongoing road maintenance, are prime examples of how strategic investments are shaping the future of our town.



Tulips at the Lions Park garden

Jephson Street has undergone a major transformation as part of the Shire's broader strategy to activate the town centre and improve accessibility.

This project, funded through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund Phase 4, involved the comprehensive reform, drainage, and sealing of the existing gravel road, converting it into a one-way lane. This change not only enhances access to businesses on Warren Road but also plays a crucial role in diverting traffic off the main street, improving road safety, and supporting the town's Central Business District (CBD).

The 173-metre road rebuild was not without its challenges. The project required careful planning to ensure minimal disruption to local businesses and residents while delivering a road that meets the community's needs. By rerouting traffic, the Shire has created a safer and more efficient flow within the CBD, making it easier for both residents and visitors to navigate the town. This project is a key component of the Shire's vision to create a more vibrant and accessible town centre.

The revitalisation of Jephson Street aligns perfectly with the strategic objectives outlined in the Nannup Investment Prospectus. The Prospectus highlights the importance of infrastructure in activating town centres and driving economic growth. The improvements made on Jephson Street are expected to have a lasting impact on the local economy by enhancing access to businesses and making the town centre more attractive to both locals and visitors.

The Southern Bridges project is another significant infrastructure initiative that is set to improve connectivity within the Shire. The project's centreline alignment has been meticulously set out, with Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) inspecting the proposed alignment and providing valuable feedback. The next phase involves resubmitting the drawings to the MRWA design team for final approval, moving one step closer to the project's completion.

Once completed, the Southern Bridges project will not only provide critical infrastructure but also enhance the safety and accessibility of key routes within the Shire. This project represents a significant

investment in the community's future, ensuring that our roads and bridges can support growth and development for years to come.

In addition to major projects like Jephson Street and the Southern Bridges, the Shire's works crew has been diligently maintaining and improving roads across the region including the realignment and shoulder widening on Leschenaultia Drive in Jalbarragup are enhancing safety with a 6-metre seal.

The Shire has also undertaken comprehensive road shoulder repairs, patching, and drainage improvements, ensuring our roads are well-prepared for the winter rains. Maintenance grading has been completed on several key roads, including Storry Road, Pneumonia Road, and Governor Broome Road, reflecting our ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving vital infrastructure across the Shire.

The Shire of Nannup is also leading the way in sustainability with recent solar power initiatives. Solar panels have been installed at the Waste Facility, funded through Municipal funds, while funding from Talison has enabled the installation

of solar panels with battery storage at the Town Hall and Recreation Centre.

These initiatives are more than just a step towards sustainability—they represent a commitment to reducing the Shire's carbon footprint and setting a positive example for the community. The solar panels will reduce energy costs for these facilities, and the inclusion of battery storage ensures that energy can be stored and used efficiently, further enhancing the Shire's resilience and sustainability.

The Parks and Garden team, in collaboration with the festival volunteers, has been busy in the last few months, planting over 25,000 bulbs across Nannup's garden beds in preparation for the 2024 Flower & Garden Festival. Carefully monitored and stored, these vibrant tulips set the town alive with colour, thanks to the team's meticulous care and planning.

Nannup continues to be a hub of activity with several successful events that bring our community together and draw visitors to our town. The SEVEN Gravel Race, now a cornerstone of Nannup's event calendar, continues to grow, with the Shire working closely with the event organisers as the plans for the 2026 UCI World Championship begin to build momentum. This includes a range of community engagement sessions, the first of which took place in early August,

which saw a strong attendance and provided valuable insights into this event. It is expected to draw thousands of international competitors and visitors and will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on our local economy.

The Forest Rally, held from May 16th to 19th, revved up excitement across Nannup, offering spectators thrilling action in the forests and at the Service Park, where crews worked tirelessly to maintain their cars. With a diverse range of cars competing, from classic Ford Escorts to modern turbocharged Mitsubishi Evos and Subaru WRXs, the event showcased the skill and precision of rally drivers, attracting motorsport enthusiasts from far and wide.

On ANZAC Day, the Shire of Nannup proudly supported the Nannup RSL in organising a series of poignant events. The day was marked by a Parade down the main street, made possible by a well-executed Traffic Management Plan. The personal stories shared during the day added depth and emotion to the proceedings, making it a memorable and respectful occasion for all who attended.

The Magical Weedy Seadragon also graced Nannup Town Hall on May 7th, captivating audiences with two sold-out shows. This unique theatre production, supported by Southern Forest Arts and the Shire of Nannup, provided a

rare opportunity for young people in the region to experience live theatre. Supported by the Nannup Music Club, the event's success was further bolstered by funding from the Shire, which subsidised bus costs, allowing more schools to participate and making it a truly inclusive community experience.

The Solstice in the Garden, organised by the Nannup Music Club, was another highlight. Held on the Winter Solstice, it brought over 100 locals together in the beautifully decorated Secret Garden, illuminated by fairy lights and lanterns. The evening was filled with music, food, and a heartfelt ceremony where attendees symbolically burned their fears and regrets, marking a return to light and growth.

Nannup Music Club is also supporting the Nannup Town Hall which will play host to the Festival of Small Halls on Wednesday 21 August, as the Club continues to add to the vibrancy of Nannup.

As we continue to invest in infrastructure and host events that draw people together, the Shire of Nannup remains committed to building a community that is both connected and thriving. These projects and events are not just about improving our town—they are about creating a future where Nannup is a place of opportunity, growth, and connection for all.



Garden Fairy playfully interacting at the Experience Nannup Pavilion during the Flower & Garden Festival



The market stalls at the Festival showcased an eclectic array of shopping delights

Once again, the floral exhibition at the Town Hall, Habitat, impressed with a diverse display of floral art, showcasing meaningful messages and the exceptional talent of local artists



# LONG-TIME STAFF RETIRE

## LOUISE STOKES: 17 YEARS OF IMPACTFUL SERVICE

Over her 17-year tenure, Louise Stokes has been a driving force behind several key projects that have shaped Nannup's community. Her leadership was instrumental in establishing the early childhood centre in 2012, which provided essential childcare services, enabling families to stay in town and fostering local growth. Louise also initiated the Riverside Trail project, which laid the foundation for Nannup's Trail Town aspirations, engaging the Bunbury Regional Prison Section 98 in supporting local infrastructure projects. Her role in major events, including the DRIFT film festival and numerous cycling events, brought economic benefits and instilled a sense of pride and ownership within the community.

## STEVE WINFIELD: 22 YEARS OF CULTIVATING NANNUP'S GREEN SPACES

Steve Winfield, who served the Shire for 22 years, began his career as a part-time member of the parks and garden crew before advancing to head gardener. His horticultural expertise transformed Nannup's landscape, creating native gardens that have become a hallmark of the town. Steve's efforts, such as planting street trees that made Nannup a top autumn destination and his meticulous work growing tulips for the Nannup Flower & Garden Festival, have left a lasting legacy. His collaboration on the garden sculpture at Old Depot Park further showcased his creativity and commitment to enhancing Nannup's beauty.

## A GRATEFUL FAREWELL

The Shire of Nannup extends its sincere gratitude to both Steve and Louise for their years of service, dedication, and the positive impact they have made on our community. Their contribution will continue to inspire and benefit Nannup for years to come.



# ACKNOWLEDGING VALUABLE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Shire of Nannup would like to extend its sincere thanks to both Cr Bob Longmore and Cr Chris Buckland for their remarkable contributions to the Council.

## CR ROBERT (BOB) LONGMORE: A DECADE OF DEDICATION

Cr Bob Longmore began his service on the Nannup Council in 2011, completing two full terms and part of a third, totalling ten and a half years. Throughout his tenure, Bob was known for his informed and balanced decision-making, always keeping the community's best interests at heart. He played a significant role in key initiatives, such as the architectural and design decisions for the Nannup Recreation Centre's extension in 2012, and was actively involved in committees like the Risk Management Advisory Committee, Blackwood Marketing Group,

and Lower Blackwood Landcare Group. Bob also represented the Shire at the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), contributing to important discussions on the amalgamation of local councils.

Beyond his council duties, Bob's passion for community engagement shone through his involvement as a life member of the Nannup Music Club and the Flower and Garden Village. His long-standing contributions, including festival presentations and gardening articles in the Nannup Telegraph, reflect his deep commitment to the community.

## CR CHRIS BUCKLAND: SERVICE AND CONTINUITY

Cr Chris Buckland has served on the Nannup Council since 2017, bringing

his dedication and experience as a long-time resident to the role. Over his six and a half years of service, Chris witnessed significant changes in Nannup, particularly during the pandemic and the start of Nannup's Trail Town journey. While he is proud of the larger projects undertaken during his tenure, Chris has taken particular pride in supporting residents through the smaller, everyday tasks such as planning and approvals. His commitment to making decisions based on research and evidence, along with his ability to work collaboratively with fellow councillors, has been greatly valued.

Although the Shire of Nannup is sad to see Chris leave his role as Councillor, we are excited to welcome him to the Shire's staff, where he will continue to contribute in a new capacity.

# INVESTING IN LOCAL TALENT: NANNUP'S APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE EHO SHORTAGE

Facing a national shortage of Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), the Shire of Nannup has taken a proactive step by offering a cadetship to an existing employee. This strategic move addresses the critical need for EHOs in a cost-effective manner, while also providing a valuable career development opportunity.

The shortage of qualified EHOs has impacted service delivery across local governments, largely due to the extensive qualifications required and competition from other sectors. Rather than struggling to recruit externally, the Shire identified an opportunity to leverage its current

workforce. By training an employee who already understands the Shire's operations and community, the transition into the EHO role will be smoother and more effective.

The cadetship, spanning 3 to 6 years, will be guided by Chrystal Warr, the Shire's relief EHO based in Perth. The program is designed to be flexible, allowing the cadet to gain hands-on experience and work alongside other local governments. This approach not only fills a critical gap but also builds a pipeline of skilled professionals for the future.

Investing in current staff enhances retention and ensures that the EHO remains closely connected to local environmental health issues. This initiative reflects the Shire's commitment to innovative solutions and long-term community wellbeing.

As our cadet progresses, the Shire of Nannup is confident that this approach will secure the necessary environmental health expertise while also fostering a stable and knowledgeable workforce.

# SHIRE OF NANNUP SUPPORTS LOCAL HOUSING INITIATIVES

The Shire of Nannup is taking proactive steps to address local housing needs, particularly for seniors. At the July 2024 Council meeting, the Shire provided in-principle support for an over 55s housing development on Brockman Highway. This initiative is part of the Shire's broader strategy to meet the increasing demand for seniors housing, as identified in the recent Seniors Housing Needs Report. The backing of this private proposal demonstrates our commitment to sustainable growth and community well-being.

# DISCOVER NANNUP'S NEW TRAIL MARKERS AND UPGRADED SIGNAGE

Nannup's trails just got better with the installation of new wayfinding markers on our beautiful gravel and road trails. Check out the Experience Nannup app for trail maps, real-time GPS tracking, and more. Explore the scenic Gold Gully (28 km) and charming Milward (25 km, extendable to 50 km) trails. Plus, upgraded signage on the Old Timberline trail enhances your biking experience. Happy riding!

# PLAY POCKETS UPDATE

The Shire of Nannup has secured a DLGSCI Community Trail Planning Grant to support the development of shared use trails at Gussies Mill and DBCA Kearney Block. These green-rated, easy trails will feature "Play Pockets," offering fun and educational opportunities. The trails are designed for hikers, bikers, walkers, and the mobility-assisted community, ensuring accessible enjoyment for all.

# SHIRE OF NANNUP LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION RESULTS

On Friday, 19 July, the Nannup Shire Council held an Extraordinary Election to fill two council vacancies, conducted in accordance with Section 4.72 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Shire President Cr. Tony Dean congratulated the newly appointed councillors, Tim Sly and Lyn Curtis, remarking, "Strong connections with our diverse community are the cornerstone of effective council work, and I look forward to collaborating with both Lyn and Tim as they step into their new roles."

The Nannup Shire Council also extended their gratitude to all the candidates for their commitment and enthusiasm toward the Nannup community. Notably, this election saw the highest voter participation in the Shire's history, reflecting the exceptional community engagement inspired by the candidates.



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

Photography: Daniela Tommasi

# KAYA

The Shire of Nannup acknowledges the Wardandi and Bibbulmun people as the native title holders of the lands and waters in and around Nannup together with all native title holders throughout the Shire.

We pay respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging, and of the Wardandi and Bibbulmun people and extend that respect to all Aboriginal Australians living within the Shire of Nannup.

Nannup, also known as the "Stopping Place" in the local Noongar language, and the Blackwood River is significant for the Wardandi people as it is the place where the Pibelman and Wardandi people came together.



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