

WELCOME

Welcome to the Makuru 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.

CONNECT AND GROW

The past few months have been a particularly active period for the Shire of Nannup's events team. The full calendar has included mountain biking events, heritage tours, art trails and fundraisers, reflecting Nannup's growing presence as a regional event destination and its continued focus on economic development.



NM Sports Media

Riders enjoying the course at the Tiger Tracks event

A summary of the 2024 events calendar saw clear growth, with four additional events and fifteen more event days compared to the previous year. This increase supported a steady flow of visitors across the seasons and generated more than \$7.3 million in local economic activity—directly benefiting local businesses and employment. With the 2025 calendar already showing signs of continued growth, Nannup appears well-positioned to support a sustainable and long-term events program.

Behind every successful event is a significant amount of planning, and the Shire's events team has worked consistently behind the scenes to streamline processes and assist organisers. This cooperative approach has played a key role in ensuring that events are well managed and contribute positively to the local area.

Several well-known events returned between March and June 2025, including the Black Dog Ride, Tour of the Blackwood, Blackwood River Arts Trail, Tiger Tracks, ANZAC Day commemorations, Nannup Lions Charity Auction, SEVEN Gravel Race — UCI World Series, Forest Rally, WA Gravity Enduro Series, and Solstice in the Secret Garden.

Families enjoyed the April school holiday program, which offered

activities such as cartoon drawing, while local theatre was celebrated with a performance of The Lighthouse Girl Saga. The Nannup Variety Club also marked its one-year anniversary with a well-attended gathering at the amphitheatre, and the Nannup Wellness Expo received positive feedback.

One of the highlights this season was the Women on Wheels program, funded through the Active Regional Community Initiative Grant facilities through the Department of Local Government Sports and Cultural Industries. The program provided six subsidised mountain biking sessions for beginners, focused on building skills and confidence in a supportive environment. It helped participants discover the enjoyment of recreational riding. The program reflects the Shire's broader efforts to encourage healthy, inclusive activities for all community members.

In 2025, Nannup took part in the first Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival—an event that is expected to become an annual feature in the region. The festival gave visitors a chance to explore local history through a variety of activities, including guided tours of the Nannup RSL ANZAC display, a self-guided trail of local military sites, and a closer look at the Nannup Bakery's transformation from pharmacy medicine to pastries.



Nannup Bakery Display - Heritage Festival



Shire President, Tony Dean presenting winner trophies at Forest Rally 2025

Nannup's natural heritage was also part of the program, with a screening of Night Calling, a documentary about local ornithologist Dr. Boyd Wykes and his research on the Masked Owl. The Nannup Historical Society contributed with daily opening hours and knowledgeable volunteers on hand to share stories and assist with enquiries.

Nearby Donnelly River supported the festival with the Friends of Donnelly Village Museum detailing the Bunnings Donnelly Timber Mill story. Historical images were installed at the Shire of Nannup office in time for the festival.

Looking ahead, the events calendar continues to expand. Upcoming highlights include the Oceanique Sky Lines Album Tour 2025, Nannup Winter Wonderland Ball, Nannup Flower and Garden Festival, Cape to Cape Mountain Bike Race and the Mini Jet WA Southern Screamer.

The Shire of Nannup approve these events and applaud event organisers for being proactive and working through the event application process. Running events in facilities such as the Nannup Town Hall, is a great use of Shire assets. The Shire encourages organisers who are interested in utilising facilities to get in touch.

On 5 May 2025, around 30 community members attended a planning session hosted by the Shire of Nannup and Nannup

Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The session was an early step in preparing for the G7 event, a week-long festival-style program to be held in October 2026. The G7 will lead into the 2026 UCI World Series Gravel Race, which is scheduled for 10–11 October and is expected to attract over 25,000 visitors.

The race, which features elite qualifying riders, will be broadcast to a global audience of around 300 million people across 120+ countries. It's a significant opportunity for Nannup to be showcased internationally. To help manage the expected interest and activity, the Shire is encouraging residents to express their interest in getting involved; by offering short-term accommodation, launching a pop-up business, or exploring other visitor-related opportunities. For more information head to the Shire office.

The Nannup Pump Track is currently being refurbished with support from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund Phase 4, the Nannup Mountain Bike Club, and the Shire of Nannup. Trail builders, Three Chillies Design, are leading the project, which will upgrade the area to provide an enhanced space for both residents and visitors to enjoy outdoor activity.

Meanwhile, safety improvements have been made at the Old Kindy Building on Adam Street, where a new fence has been installed. Plans are now underway to transform the existing playground into a nature play area. This work is supported by the Shire successfully receiving funding from the Native Forest Transition Program.

There have also been a few changes to the Shire of Nannup team. Liam Freedman has joined as Ranger/General Hand. Andrea Jenkins has concluded her role in communications, with Anneli Salo now stepping into that position. Lorraine Learmond is temporarily filling the role of Finance Officer following the departure of Julie Priddy, and Debbie Whittle has started as the Shire's new Occupational Health and Safety Officer.

The Nannup Youth Zone returned in May with new programming run by HiveMind Sport Solutions. Aimed at young people aged 11 to 17, the sessions focus on sport, leadership and wellbeing, as well as facilitated discussions around the impacts of alcohol and drugs. The program is free and offers a safe, inclusive space to build skills and confidence. Sessions will continue weekly over six weeks in Terms 3 and 4 at the Community Room in the Nannup Recreation Centre Precinct.

For older residents, the Seniors Morning Tea remains a popular and regular fixture, meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Around 25 attendees participate in each session, which includes a mix of guest speakers and hands-on activities. Recent highlights have included a visit from Lilly the therapy dog, a talk from Dr Bob Longmore on seeds and seedlings, a tulip-making workshop with local artist Nina, and an informative talk from the Department of Communities on the WA Seniors Card.

NANNUP INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

The Hitchcock Drive footpath repair is awaiting contractor. Leschenaultia Drive and Helyar Road sealing has also been completed. Fouracres Road was resheeted and old bed log culverts were replaced with concrete pipes on Jalbarragup Road. Road shouldering took place on small sections of the Cundinup South Road. Pothole patching has been completed on the Nannup-Balingup Road.

Signs have been replaced or installed at Miller Road, Baker Road (Vasse Highway and Mowen Road ends) and Longbottom Road. Hikers warning signs have been added at the Timberline Trail on Mowen Road. Ambulance (Depot) signs have been added on the corner of Warren Road and Cross Street and the corner of Kearney Street and Walter Street. Signs have also been installed at the Village Green and Old Depot Park.

Most of the stockpile of tyres have been collected from the Waste Disposal Site and green waste has been burnt. Works to extend/complete the perimeter fence have commenced. All mattresses have been disposed of. Abandoned vehicles have been removed from Graphite Road, Melaleuca Place and the Village Green.

Drains were cleaned out at the Nannup Golf Course in preparation for wet weather. Cundinup South drains have been cleaned out and some v-drains have been reinstated. East Nannup Road leaf litter and debris has been swept. Fallen trees were removed from East Nannup Road, Rowe Road and Sears Road and the East Nannup Road shoulder was repaired. Brushtail Road bridge remains closed. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage permit has been issued, and propping repairs are expected to be carried out. Bridge 0867A Balingup-Nannup Road repairs are scheduled.

Continued grading maintenance occurred on Jalbarragup Road, Barrabup Road, Baker Road, White Road, Perks Road, Roberts Road, Mount Lewin Loop, Lyon Road, Stallard Road, Jangardup Road, Pneumonia Road, Fouracres Road, Scott Road, Storry Road, Coronation Road, Milyeannup Coast Road, Woodarburrrup Road and Poison Swamp Road.

A new concrete pad around the patio area and new carpet was installed at the State Emergency Service (SES) building. The Parks and Garden team have been busy mowing and slashing the towns verges, parks and ovals, and public open spaces. The Nannup Flower and Garden Festival tulips arrived and have been packed away in cold storage.

The Shire Works Team swept roads and footpaths along Brockman Street in preparation for the 2025 SEVEN Gravel Race and assisted with the Traffic Management on Warren Road for the ANZAC Day parade.



Ambulance Depot Sign with St John Ambulance Volunteers Warren Smith and Zoe Stolton



Fallen Tree East Nannup Road



The new Village Green sign helping visitors easily identify the location

BLACKWOOD RIVER ARTS TRAIL'S EXPANDING CREATIVE LANDSCAPE

Since its humble beginnings in 2020, as a small arts trail in Nannup with just eight venues and 20 artists, the Blackwood River Arts Trail has blossomed into a vibrant and inclusive annual event celebrating creativity across the shires of Nannup, Bridgetown - Greenbushes, Donnybrook – Balingup and Boyup Brook.



Local artist, Miranda Free, displaying her artwork

Spearheaded by local artist, Miranda Free, the initiative was born from the success of that first trail, held just as COVID-19 border restrictions eased. In 2021, the first Blackwood River Art Trail launched with 21 venues and 35 artists, and the group then became a formal not-for-profit organisation, Blackwood River Arts Trail Inc.

In 2022, with the name changed to Blackwood River Arts Trail (BRAT) to embrace diverse art forms beyond only visual arts, the Blackwood River Film Festival was initiated, partnering with local, independent producers, Revelation Perth International Film Festival, and Nannup Community Cinema.

The trail now celebrates creativity in all its expressions, including dance, music, poetry and theatre. Although participating artists must live locally,

the trail promotes touring productions alongside local works, creating an engaging festival atmosphere throughout the region.

Nannup remains a stronghold for the arts and is consistently well-represented in the trail. The event blends new talent with familiar favourites such as Leanne White, Marijke and John Tromp and several of our mosaic artists.

This year, Nannup featured the trail's youngest artist, Charlie Baker, who took part at just eight years old. In Kirup, Gary Smitherman showcased restored historical sites and landscape art—an in-person must-see. A screening of Mia Mias, a moving short documentary about Wadandi Elder and artist, Sandra Hill's, final work created for the stolen generation, featured as part of the film festival.

BRAT is now a vital part of community life and economic growth, adding to the idea that Nannup is an exciting and vibrant place to visit. 'As an artist, it's really raised my profile. I have sales during the trail I wouldn't otherwise achieve,' says Miranda.

Steve Goble, BRAT Treasurer, notes that, 'Visitors stay two to three days for BRAT and often return, thanks in part to the promotion of the Experience Nannup app.'

Planning is already underway for 2026, and the committee welcomes new members. 'We're always looking for people with new ideas who love the arts, even if they're not artists,' Miranda adds.

Interested individuals can email admin@blackwoodriverartstrail.com. The next AGM is Sunday, July 20 in Boyup Brook.

CAPTURING NANNUP'S STORIES: ORAL HISTORY PROJECT A HEARTFELT SUCCESS

This May, the Shire of Nannup had the privilege of conducting 19 interviews over four days as part of the Nannup Oral History Project. From lifelong locals to more recent residents, participants shared their unique experiences. Some spoke for themselves, others on behalf of families, community groups, events, or local businesses.

This project wasn't just about documenting the past—it was also about capturing today's Nannup for future generations. Through stories of adventurous childhoods, forestry and mill work, floods, personal loss, community milestones, and the development of the Scott River region, one thing was clear: Nannup is, and always has been, an incredible place filled with resilience and community camaraderie.

Themes of change and continuity emerged. While industries and schooling have evolved, the charm of the main street remains much the same. Volunteering also surfaced as a powerful theme—past and present. Many noted the growing challenge of sustaining volunteer numbers; especially as economic pressures limit younger families' capacity to contribute. Despite this, the spirit of giving back remains a cornerstone of Nannup life.

Currently, the interviews are being edited, and a short documentary is in production. Once complete, it will be screened at a Seniors Morning Tea. All participants will receive a USB copy of their interviews, and information will be shared about accessing the Oral History podcast.

Thanks to funding from the Department of Communities' Age Friendly Communities Program, and support from Local Government Professionals WA and the Shire of Nannup, the project has been a resounding success.

The Shire of Nannup is now exploring funding to make the Oral History Project an annual feature of the Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival. This is so more community members can share their history in the years ahead.

SUPPORTING NANNUP'S TRAILS THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE NANNUP WA MERCHANDISE STORE

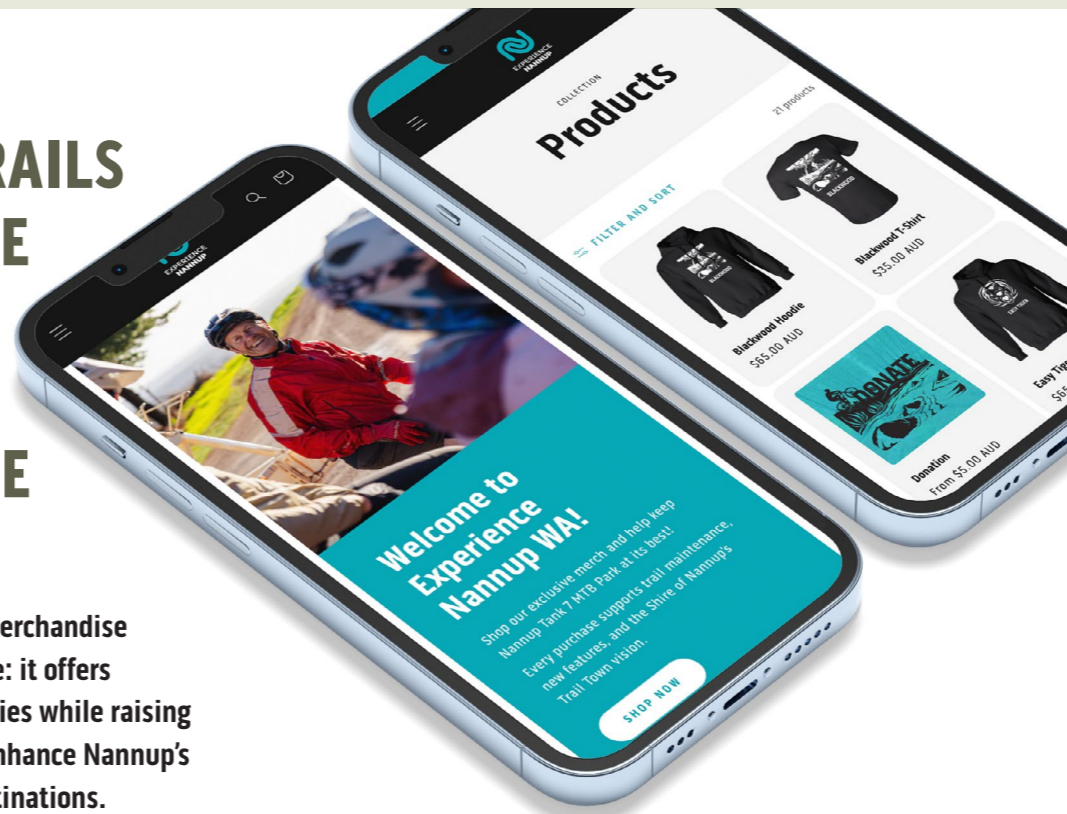
The Experience Nannup WA merchandise website serves a dual purpose: it offers branded apparel and accessories while raising vital funds to maintain and enhance Nannup's premier mountain biking destinations.

Regular trail maintenance is essential for safety, sustainability, and rider enjoyment. Behind every smooth ride is the work of clearing debris, managing erosion, and maintaining infrastructure. Well-maintained trails ensure all skill levels can enjoy the world-class trails Nannup has on its doorstep.

Trail upkeep is a significant investment in Nannup's economic future. Mountain biking currently attracts over 11,600 visitors annually, injecting millions into the local economy and cementing Nannup's reputation as a mountain biking destination.

All proceeds from the Experience Nannup merchandise store go directly to the Trail Maintenance Fund, managed by the Shire of Nannup. Buying Experience Nannup merchandise is more than just getting quality gear. It's a way to show support, feel connected, and contribute to the community. Each purchase helps preserve Nannup's trail network and supports the local economy.

Explore the collection at shop.experiencenannupwa.com.au.



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Rest, Connect, Grow



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

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 Bibbulmun and Wardandi people came together.

