

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Birak edition of the biannual 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 Shire of Nannup's Oral History Project successfully documented the personal stories of 19 community members over 20 episodes, with interviews conducted by Andrea Alexander.



Tracy King's story during the Oral History Podcast project



Deputy Shire President at the official opening of the Oral History Podcast



New fence at the Old Kindy Building



Artist Leanne White completing the art mural installation on the shed at the Old Kindy Building

These stories were formally presented at a celebratory event on Monday, 20 October 2025, with each participant receiving a certificate and a personal copy of their story. The event, hosted at the Function Centre, included opening remarks by Deputy Shire President, Vicki Hansen, as well as reflections from the interview team.

The podcasts, along with the behind-the-scenes mini-documentary, are available via the Shire website. They provide an incredible insight into Nannup's rich history and the people that have made our community what it is. The Shire of Nannup extends sincere appreciation to all participants for sharing their stories.

Support from the Department of Communities, Age Friendly Communities Program made this project possible, as did the ongoing work by the Economic and Community Development Team.

Funding through the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) Timber Transition Community Small Grants Program enabled upgrades to the Old Kindy Building and its surrounds. A Nannup Playgroup shed mural has also been created by local artist, Leanne White, based on the Nannup townsite historic colour code. These improvements have seen the outdoor area transform into a safe and engaging space with a nature playground installed.

The Nannup Family Collective has secured additional funding through Lotterywest and Talison Lithium for further elements to be added to the playground area such as a basket swing, mini monkey, stump fort with slide and a water play station. The Early Years Precinct will be open for use early in 2026.

The Seniors Morning Tea group has been successfully held twice monthly since February 2025, fostering a welcoming and



Anne Bennetts pictured with the new infant plaques being installed at the cemetery

informative environment for older adults in the community. The initiative has gained strong momentum, with a consistent flow of guest speakers offering valuable insights and resources to participants in a group setting. The group will resume on the second Tuesday of February 2026.

In support of the Shire of Nannup's Cultural Plan and its strategic commitment to celebrating local identity and fostering community pride, a comprehensive inventory of public artworks across the Shire has been compiled. This includes sculptures, murals, memorials, and community-led installations such as the ANZAC Soldiers Memorial, Reconciliation Pathway, Foreshore Totems, and the Living with Emus sculpture.

The catalogue draws on historical records, community input, and local knowledge, and documents key details including artist names, installation dates, and the cultural or historical context of each piece. The next step involves consultation with relevant stakeholders to develop a framework that supports the sustainable care and continued celebration of Nannup's public art assets.

The Friends of the Cemetery have enhanced safety and dignity at the cemetery by restoring headstones, installing markers, and removing hazards. Thirty Australian flags were placed to honour service members, and a donated angel statue now welcomes visitors at the entrance, alongside decorative pots from the Lions Club.

A \$5,000 donation enabled the installation of 60 commemorative plaques for children and stillborn babies, completed with support from the Parks and Gardens team. The Shire gratefully acknowledges Lorraine Learmond and Heath Pickett for their invaluable contributions to these important improvements and extends sincere thanks to the generous visitor who donated \$5,000, along with Gentle Gym, Shire management, and Councillors.

The Shire of Nannup thanks all community members who submitted comments for the Age Friendly (Seniors) Housing Strategy 2025-2035, Age Friendly (Seniors) Strategy 2025-2035 and Economic Development and Implementation Plan 2025-2035.

The Project Steering Group for the new Nannup Native Forest MTB Park Project has endorsed the final planning framework for the new MTB Park. The project will utilise the old golf course site, old logging roads and will link with the Munda Biddi Trail which connects with the Nannup Town Centre.



Shire officers on site at the approved location for the new Mountain Bike Park

World Trail completed the final concept plan for the project in August. The concept has been endorsed by the Project Steering Group and the Shire Council.

The proposed trail network includes 16 trails (15.5 km) featuring:

- Two access trails connecting to the Munda Biddi Trail
- Two easy adventure loops
- Six gravity trails
- Two climbing trails
- A skills progression loop

The Shire is currently progressing environmental and cultural heritage approval requirements for the project. The tender process is currently being finalised with the successful contractor appointed for the Native Forest MTB Park project.

The Shire of Nannup had a formal Trail Town Assessment in October 2025. Representatives from Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Trails WA undertook site visits at key trail facilities and Shire Officers presented on the Trail Town Journey. The assessment was a key milestone in Nannup being formally recognised as a regionally significant trail destination.

One of the first initiatives will be the development of a Trail Friendly Business program with Trails WA hosting a Nannup business activation session on 8 December 2025. The session will be aimed at inspiring and equipping local businesses to engage with trail users through placemaking and tailored services.

The Shire of Nannup was a finalist in the 2025 Outdoor Industry Awards — Outdoor Adventure Tourism Award Category. The awards recognised excellence, innovation, and leadership across Western Australia's vibrant outdoor sector.

The Shires submission was based on its Trail Town Journey — Small Town Culture, Big Town Dreams. It highlighted the strategic investment in mountain biking and trail-based adventure tourism activities which has sparked significant economic growth, developed a world class trail network, unique cultural experiences and innovative visitor services offering something for outdoor enthusiasts.

The Event Ready Business Case was commissioned to support the planning of major local infrastructure upgrades to position Nannup as a hub for world-class events. While funding is yet to be secured, having a detailed business case ready to share with Government departments and eligible funding programs is advantageous.

The business case addresses key issues such as wastewater, power and connectivity to better host large gatherings and festivals, with improvements attracting thousands more visitors annually. Tourism is central to Nannup's identity, with events like the Nannup Music Festival and SEVEN Gravel Race already drawing attention. With the 2026 UCI Gravel World Championships approaching, these upgrades are essential to deliver exceptional experiences for both visitors and locals.

The Shire of Nannup congratulates all recipients of the 2025-2026 Round One Community Grants Program:

- Nannup Community Cinema - waiver of fees for the Foreshore Amphitheatre for a summer season of free outdoor movie nights.
- Nannup Family Collective Inc. - funding to support monthly Toddler Jam sessions.

- Nala Booja Eco Clan Aboriginal Corporation - supporting the event: Remembering Barrabup Federation Gatherings: A Yarning Circle.
- Nannup Historical Society - for the purchase of new equipment to enhance visitor experience and improve volunteer occupational health and safety.
- Nannup Chamber of Commerce - to support a calendar of events aimed at growing membership and strengthening engagement between members and local businesses.
- Nannup Men's Shed - to support the purchase of additional welding equipment enabling basic welding training courses for the community.
- Nannup Cricket Club - to support the replacement of synthetic turf.

Recipients of Round Two of the 2025-2026 Community Grants Program will be notified early in 2026.



Experience Nannup, Nannup Flower and Garden shines on Nannup once again



Festival of Small Halls in full swing at the Nannup Town Hall



Cape to Cape riders preparing for the start on Brockman Street

# NANNUP EVENT SUCCESS DRIVES TOURISM

**Nannup has seen a surge in visitors over the 2024–2025 financial year, with its event calendar attracting over 79,000 additional people to town beyond the regular visitation.**

This influx has delivered significant economic and social benefits, boosting local businesses, filling accommodation, and showcasing the talents of local producers and artisans. More importantly, it has reinforced Nannup's reputation as a tourist destination.

The past six months have featured a packed event calendar, with highlights including the Experience Nannup, Nannup Flower and Garden Festival, the Winter Wonderland Ball, and the 50th anniversary of the Blackwood Classic. Sporting events like Cape to Cape, and the WA Gravity Girls Coaching brought energy and excitement, while community-focused gatherings such as the DV Aware Workshop and Just a Farmer movie fostered connection and learning.

One standout was the Festival of Small Halls, hosted by the Nannup Music Club on 29 August. Featuring international and local artists, the event drew a record crowd to the Town Hall for an evening of music and storytelling. Another success was the Blue Light Disco on 4 July, which welcomed 46 children and teens for two age-based sessions of dancing, games, and community bonding. The event, organised by the Nannup Local Drug Action Group (LDAG) and Nannup District High School Parents and Citizens' (P&C), provided a safe and fun environment that encouraged positive youth engagement.

Looking ahead, the Shire is preparing for a busy summer. A \$15,000 grant will support a three-day Australia Day celebration from 24–27 January, including an outdoor movie night, the 30th annual breakfast and Citizen of the Year Awards, and a family-friendly day: Outdoor Splash, a day of water slides, backyard cricket and cultural activities.

Running throughout January, the Family Fun Festival will offer a diverse mix of free activities for children, youth, and families. Get excited, for a dynamic program featuring sports and arts projects led by professional facilitators culminating in the Australia Day festivities.

The festival is part of the Shire's commitment to community wellbeing, youth engagement, and family inclusion. It reflects the values of the Strategic Community Plan 2021–2036, promoting active lifestyles, social connection, and cultural celebration.

Excitement is also building for the 37th Nannup Music Festival, promising another unforgettable weekend of music and connection.

With such a diverse and inclusive event program, Nannup continues to thrive as a destination where community spirit and creativity shine, attracting visitors who support our vibrant local tourism industry.



# INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES AND GRANGE ROAD CAR PARK: A LONG-AWAITED WIN FOR NANNUP



The Shire of Nannup's works crew completing site preparation at the Grange Road carpark

The Shire's Infrastructure Team has been working hard to deliver a wide range of improvements across Nannup, ensuring safer roads, cleaner spaces, and better facilities for everyone.

Pothole patching has been completed by the Works Team on several key roads including Cundinup West Road, Graphite Road, and Balingup-Nannup Road. Shoulder damage on East Nannup Road caused by a fallen tree was also repaired.

Maintenance grading has been carried out by the Works Team on over 20 roads, improving driveability and safety. Fallen or hazardous trees have been pruned or removed from more than 20 locations, including Bridgetown-Nannup Road and the Nannup Recreation Centre carpark.

New signage has been installed at the Nannup Airstrip, Karri Gully carpark, and at the Timberline Trail, enhancing visibility and safety for all road users.

At the Waste Disposal Site, new e-waste bins have arrived thanks to Ecocycle, allowing residents to responsibly dispose of batteries, light globes, and miscellaneous electronics. A new fence has been installed, and planning is underway for a comprehensive Waste Facility Concept Plan.

The Parks and Gardens team continues to beautify Nannup with mowing, garden bed preparation, and storm clean-up efforts. New plinths have been installed for the RSL along Centenary Drive, and the team played a key role in supporting

recent events like the Nannup Flower and Garden Festival and Cape to Cape.

Infrastructure upgrades include repairs to bridges on East Nannup Road, Brushtail Road, and Balingup-Nannup Road. Building maintenance has been completed at Foreshore Park, Danjangerup Cottages, and the Old Kindy Building, with a new oven installed at the Function Centre and a swing replaced at Marinko Tomas Park. The electric car charger has been replaced, supporting sustainable transport options.

Under the Capital Works Program, the Hitchcock Drive Footpath has been completed. Governor Broome Road and Fouracres Road have been resheeted. Bridgetown-Nannup Road and Cundinup South Road have been resealed, and work has been done on Helyar Road Intersection, Milyeannup Coast Road Shoulders and Leschenaultia Drive. Tenders for the Southern Bridge Shared Path Project have now closed.

A major project in the final stages of completion is the Grange Road Carpark. This was made possible by staff successfully securing funding from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund Phase 3.



The Community House, one of Nannup's historic landmarks



The new storage shed installed at the Community House, thanks to the community grants acquired by the group

## COMMUNITY HOUSE: A CENTURY OF CONNECTION AND CRAFT

Just over the bridge on the way in from Busselton sits Community House, one of Nannup's historic landmarks. Originally built in the 1920s as the policeman's quarters, the house was officially opened on 14 February 1923.

Later, when the council took ownership, it became a space primarily used by local women's groups, including the Country Women's Association (CWA), craft groups and the Anglican Church Op Shop. Over time, the building fell into disrepair and a group of women from various community groups came together to restore it.

They formed the Friends of Community House in 2018 with the object of the association being 'to raise funds to restore and maintain Nannup Community House for use of Community Groups.' The efforts of this group have seen the house lovingly rebuilt and restored to its former charm with the renovated building officially re-opened on 12 December 2019.

Today, 'Community House provides a safe and supportive meeting place for various community groups where traditional skills like knitting, crochet, embroidery, cake baking, bottling, and preserving are kept alive' says President, Vicki Hansen. Groups such as the CWA, Craft, Mosaics, Seniors Bingo, Yoga and the Mankind project — Nannup Men's Circle utilise the space.

It is also used for seminars, workshops and special events, is visited by hundreds of people over the Nannup Flower and Garden Festival and is a Volunteer Centre over the Nannup Music Festival. 'It's a space where heritage is honoured, friendships flourish, and knowledge is passed down' says Vicki. The garden, maintained in the style of a traditional cottage garden, adds to the house's nostalgic beauty.

In 2023, the house celebrated its centenary with a ball that echoed the past, complete with old-style dancing, a live band, period costumes, and a supper plate brought from home. True to tradition, ladies entered free while gentlemen paid \$20.

This year a new shed was installed on-site, with its colour scheme complimenting the historical palette of the House. The shed, supported through funding from a Shire of Nannup Community Grant, provides Community House users with a safe storage solution and is another achievement for Friends of Community House.

The Shire applauds the work done by the Friends of Community House. Their hard work and vision ensure that Community House continues to be a treasured asset in Nannup, hopefully for the next one hundred years.

## THANK YOU TO COUNCILLORS, IAN GIBB AND NANCY TANG

The Shire would like to thank Ian Gibb for his four years of service as Councillor. Ian has been a passionate and dedicated member of the team, championing the Trail Town vision while supporting destination marketing initiatives and town beautification projects. The Shire wishes Ian well for his future endeavours.

The Shire extends a warm welcome to Nancy Tang, who joined council in October 2025. Nancy has served the Nannup community in various volunteer roles over the years and this year, decided the time was right for her to nominate. She is looking forward to learning more about local government and working with a great team of people.



Ian Gibb



Nancy Tang



New plinths installed along the Avenue of Honour on Centenary Drive



A new EV charging station has been installed on Adam Street

Rest, Connect, Grow



# BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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, of the Wardandi and Bibbulmun people and extend that respect to all Aboriginal Australians living within the Shire of Nannup.

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



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