

OCTOBER 2026

Welcome to Kambarang | The season of birth

THIS MONTH...

A message from our
Shire President
and CEO

Wild Gravel

Cyclesense
Workshops



Full issue can be found on our website www.gnowangerup.wa.gov.au
Council > News and Information > [Gnowangerup Shire Newsletter](#)



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Shire President - Kate O'Keeffe Monthly Message



We held our September Council meeting in Ongerup, and what a terrific day it was. Councillors arrived early to tour the town's facilities, including the newly completed SES and St John Ambulance shed, the dam and water supply, and the ongoing works at Weir Park, to name just a few. The Ongerup townsite looks wonderfully invigorated, and it was heartening to see the obvious pride the community has in their town.

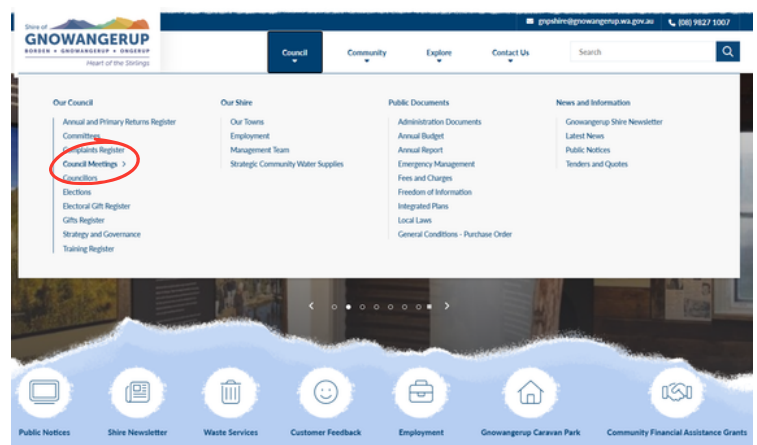
A special mention goes to the students from Ongerup Primary School who joined us for the meeting. They asked challenging and relevant questions about Weir Park, the town oval and our future plans for Ongerup. It was a pleasure to have them there, and they are a real credit to their school and community.

It was also wonderful to have community members raise the challenges this season is likely to bring for those parts of the Shire that have not had the rainfall needed to fill dams for their stock over summer. We are very cognisant of these challenges and are looking at many ways to address them. We are always open to suggestions from the community, so please get in touch at any time.



At the meeting, it was also terrific to see rates waived for two start-up businesses in the Shire. This is a local policy designed to help new businesses get off the ground, and we are very pleased to see it being used. You can read more in the Council minutes, and keep an eye on our socials as we share more about these businesses in the coming weeks.

Council meetings are always advertised on the Shire's website, so please check there for start times and any special information, or give the Shire office a call. On occasion we may add or amend meeting times and the schedule to suit the specific needs of Council, so if you are planning to join us (and we love it when you do!), please make sure you have confirmed the time beforehand.



Shire President - Kate O'Keeffe Monthly Message

At the beginning of the month Councillors attended WALGA training, which was very useful, and then five Councillors headed to Perth for the three-day Western Australian Local Government Convention. It was a challenging and informative few days, with many opportunities to workshop ideas with our neighbouring Shires. A collaborative approach to local government is a strong one, and we are very proud of the relationships we have built with our neighbouring local governments.



Pictured above Councillor Robbie Minter with Mark Irwin AM (center) and fellow Indigenous Councillors.



On Thursday 8 October the Borden community hosted the Borden Backtracks Community Gravel Event. It is wonderful to see so many people nominating, and the inaugural Town Cup adds an extra challenge: the honour goes to whichever town, Borden, Ongerup or Gnowangerup, has the greatest participation. Stay tuned for the results! It's a fantastic community event and I will give you a re cap in our next edition.

Later in the month, on Saturday 24 October, we host Wild Gravel, and once again it is shaping up to be a very exciting event. Thank you to everyone who has already nominated; we look forward to cheering you on.

An enormous thank you to the SES, St John Ambulance, our local police and all of the volunteers who have offered to marshal, set up, pack away or help out on the day. We simply couldn't run this event without you, and we are very grateful. A big shout-out also to our Community Development team for their amazing work in the lead-up. You are working hard to put our Shire on the map, and the rewards will come back to us tenfold.

See you out on the gravel!

From the CEO's desk



Fields and Fortunes

Planning is well underway for next year's Fields & Fortunes Regional Business Forum, with tourism shaping up as the key theme. This is a great opportunity to showcase what makes our Shire special and to support local businesses, visitors and community groups who help tell our story.

From the Stirling Range near Amelup to Ongerup's wildflower display and the Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre, we have plenty to be proud of. The team is working through speakers and program ideas that will highlight local strengths and encourage more people to stop, stay and spend time in our towns.

Local Laws Review

Work is continuing on the review of the Shire's Local Government Property Local Law 2016 and Animals, Environment and Nuisance Local Law 2016. These laws help guide how public spaces are used and how common community matters are managed, so it is important they remain practical, fair and up to date.

The community will be kept informed as the review progresses which will include opportunities for community members to have their say. Proposed amendments are expected to be presented to Council sometime next year.

Community Safety

Community safety remains a key focus. I recently met with residents to discuss concerns about parking and pedestrian safety around Gnowangerup District High School during drop-off and pick-up times. Aylmore Street can become very busy, and we are now looking at practical options to make the area safer for families, students and drivers.



We also held our quarterly Local Emergency Management Committee meeting, working through a drought scenario that is very relevant after a dry winter. A project team has now been formed to look at ways to protect existing water supplies and strengthen the Shire's medium-term resilience.

From the CEO's desk



Shire Staff

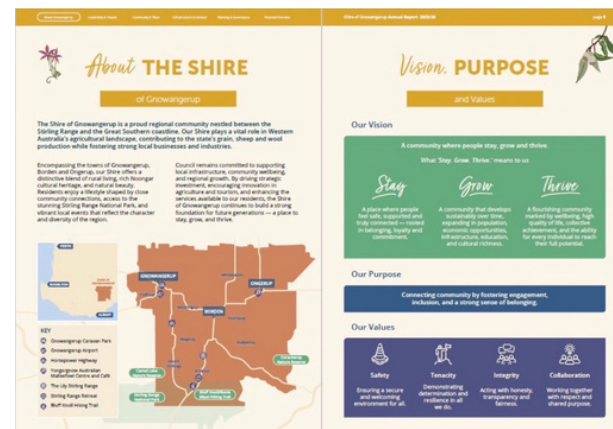
Our staff continue to focus on the services residents rely on every day. In recent times, significant work has been undertaken to increase depot staff numbers so we can better support road maintenance and response across the Shire. With more hands-on deck and a stronger focus on planning, the aim is to improve outcomes for all residents.

Training and support for our depot team remains a priority, helping staff build the skills needed to deliver safe, reliable and responsive services.

Behind the scenes, our annual staff appraisal process is underway. While this is an internal process, its purpose is very much community focused: making sure the work we do lines up with the needs and expectations of residents.

2025/26 Annual Report

The first draft of the 2025/26 Annual Report has now been prepared. This report is more than a compliance document; it is an important way to share what the Shire has delivered, where resources have been invested, and how we are tracking against community priorities. We look forward to presenting a clear and useful report for residents.



Local Government Act Reform

The State Government has announced further proposed reforms to the Local Government Act. These reforms have been unfolding over a number of years and cover areas such as elections, councillor numbers, meeting transparency, audit and risk arrangements, and oversight of the sector.

The latest proposals include four-yearly elections, privacy protections for elected members and employees, and changes aimed at reducing barriers to voluntary amalgamations. We will continue to monitor the reforms closely and consider what they may mean for our community, our Council and the way local services are delivered.

Roads with Rick – Infrastructure and Assets



As September comes to a close and we look towards the warmer months ahead, there is a sense of optimism across our district. Paddocks are changing colour, machinery is being prepared, and many farming families are getting ready for one of the busiest and most important times of the year. Harvest is nearly upon us and, like every year, our road network will play a vital role in supporting our agricultural community.

Harvest is more than just moving grain from paddocks to receival sites. It is a time that brings our community together and showcases the resilience, hard work and determination of local farmers, contractors, transport operators and businesses that help drive our local economy.

Throughout September, Shire crews continued road maintenance activities across the district to prepare the network for increased harvest traffic. Maintenance grading was undertaken on a wide range of roads including Moores Dam Road, Oakdale Road, Laurier Road, Boxwood Hill-Ongerup Road, Nightwell Road, Corackerup Road, Willemenup Road, Cowalellup Road, Magitup Road, Holden Road and Wellstead Road. Gravel patching, pothole repairs, sign maintenance and guidepost replacements were also completed at various locations across the Shire.



These works help improve safety and ride quality, however with over 800 kilometres of gravel roads across the Shire, conditions can change quickly once harvest traffic increases. Dust, corrugations and wear are a natural part of operating such a large rural road network, particularly during busy periods.

Roads with Rick – Infrastructure and Assets

One of the things that makes our community special is the way people look after each other. During harvest, our roads will be shared by trucks, headers, chaser bins, support vehicles, school buses, residents and visitors.

A little patience and courtesy can make a big difference.

When travelling during harvest:

- Be patient around slow-moving machinery.
- Allow extra space when following trucks and agricultural vehicles.
- Take care when visibility is reduced by dust.
- Slow down around road crews and work sites.
- Always drive to the conditions, especially on gravel roads.

For machinery operators and transport contractors, remaining mindful of other road users also helps ensure everyone can travel safely throughout the season and if the roads are feeling a bit rough, it's ok to slow down as this will help the road last longer.

The Shire would like to thank residents and landowners who continue to report hazards, road issues and maintenance concerns throughout the year. Local knowledge is invaluable and helps us target resources where they are needed most.

As harvest activity ramps up over the coming weeks, please continue to let us know if you notice damaged signs, fallen trees, road hazards or locations requiring attention. Early reporting helps us respond quickly and effectively.

September has been about preparation, planning and getting ready for the busy season ahead. On behalf of the Shire, I would like to thank our works crews for their efforts throughout winter and spring, and wish all our farmers, contractors, transport operators and their families a safe, productive and successful harvest.

Let's continue to look out for one another, drive safely and work together to keep our community moving.

Drive safely and be kind on our roads. 🌾 🚜 🚚



Waste Update

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our community for the positive efforts being made across the Shire to improve waste management practices. The way residents, businesses and farming operations dispose of their waste has a direct impact on the safety, sustainability and cost of operating our landfill facilities.

The Western Australian Recycling Modernisation Fund (WA RMF) is a joint Australian Government and Government of Western Australia initiative designed to improve recycling infrastructure and capabilities across the state. The RMF Regional and Remote Local Government Authority grant round provided funding to Local Government Authorities for infrastructure and equipment projects that recover or recycle material that is subject to waste export bans including plastics, cardboard and tyres.

The shire was successful securing a \$190,000 grant towards the \$285,000 project to further improve recycling and waste separation infrastructure across the Shire by building sealed hardstand areas at each landfill site with large bins to take cardboard and plastics. This funding will assist in providing better facilities and systems that make it easier for residents to separate recyclable materials from general waste when visiting our Waste Facility sites.

Separating waste correctly is one of the most effective ways we can reduce landfill volumes, recover valuable materials and improve environmental outcomes. More importantly, it is also critical in reducing the risk of landfill fires. Past landfill fires have been made more difficult to manage due to unsuitable items being disposed of in general waste areas, including steel, tyres, chemical containers and gas bottles.

The Shire has continued to improve signage and designated tipping areas at our waste facilities to make waste separation easier for everyone. These measures help residents identify the correct disposal areas and support responsible waste management throughout the community.



Landfill Sorting Tips

Before visiting your local landfill or refuse site, please take a few minutes to sort your load into separate groups and dispose in correct location as signposted:

✓ General Household Waste

- Everyday household rubbish
- Non-recyclable materials accepted by the landfill

✓ Scrap Metal

Steel, fencing wire (remove any timber posts first), farm machinery parts and other metal items
Empty IBC chemical shuttles should be returned to the supplier but the metal frames only can be placed in the scrap metal area only.

✓ Green Waste

Tree prunings, leaves, grass clippings and garden material
Keep free from plastics and other contaminants

✓ Building Rubble

Bricks, concrete, pavers and similar inert materials
Place only in designated rubble areas.

✗ Do Not Bring

- Tyres
- Asbestos
- Chemicals
- Fuels and oils
- Paints (empty tins are ok)
- Hazardous materials
- Gas bottles that have not been degassed and made safe

These materials are not accepted at Shire refuse sites and require specialist disposal arrangements.

As harvest activities commence in the coming weeks, I encourage everyone to remain vigilant when disposing of waste, particularly materials that may pose a fire risk. Taking a few extra minutes to sort loads before arriving at the landfill helps reduce fire hazards, improves recycling outcomes and keeps disposal costs down for the whole community.

Thank you to everyone who continues to do the right thing. By working together and using our waste facilities responsibly, we can build a cleaner, safer and more sustainable Shire for future generations.

For more information on our Waste Facilities please visit the shire website.

Ride Wild, Ride Safe – Getting Local Kids on Their Bikes!

With Wild Gravel inspiring more local children to get out and ride their bikes, local police raised an important question: how can children be encouraged to ride more while making sure they have the skills and equipment to do it safely?

From that conversation, the Shire of Gnowangerup developed the Ride Wild, Ride Safe initiative. Two successful grant applications to the WA Road Safety Commission provided funding for bicycle helmets, helping ensure local children have access to properly fitted helmets.

To make the helmets extra special, children were invited to personalise them using paint pens and a collection of Wild Gravel and Shire stickers.

But the initiative wasn't just about helmets!

The Shire teamed up with CycleSense, bringing Steve and Chris down from Perth to deliver practical cycling workshops in Borden, Ongerup and Gnowangerup.

Working alongside Borden and Ongerup Primary Schools, the sessions began with helmet decorating and fitting before the children headed outside to put their riding skills to the test.

Steve and Chris checked over the children's bikes, adjusting brakes, pumping up tyres and making sure seat heights were suitable. They then taught the children important riding skills, including how to brake correctly, ride safely in groups and use hand signals to communicate their movements to other riders and road users.

In Gnowangerup, an after-school workshop brought local children together for an afternoon of cycling, learning and plenty of fun.

The afternoon in Gnowangerup finished with a particularly entertaining challenge! Children had to ride continuously inside a roped circle without stopping, putting a foot down or crossing the rope. As the circle became smaller and smaller, riders were eliminated until just one remained. There was plenty of laughter and some impressive bike-handling skills on display!

Halfway through the Gnowangerup session, the heavens opened and everyone received a good soaking. With rain much needed across the district, there were certainly no complaints, particularly when a beautiful rainbow appeared afterwards!



cyclesense=excellence



Funded by
**ROAD SAFETY
COMMISSION**



What's Next?

The Shire hopes these workshops will give local children greater confidence on their bikes, encourage more cycling across the district and inspire a new enthusiasm for getting outdoors.

There are two great opportunities coming up for children and families to put their new skills into practice: Borden Backtracks on 8 October and Wild Gravel on 24 October.

Steve and Chris will also return during the second week of the school holidays for more riding skills, tips and tricks, and will be joining the fun at Borden Backtracks!

A big thank you to the WA Road Safety Commission for funding the helmets, local police for helping spark the initiative, Borden and Ongerup Primary Schools for their involvement, and Steve and Chris from CycleSense for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm.



A BORDEN COMMUNITY GRAVEL EVENT
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP

Shire of
GNOWANGERUP
BORDEN • GNOWANGERUP • ONDERUP
Heart of the Strings

8

8 OCTOBER 2026

JOIN THE BORDEN COMMUNITY
FOR A

**FREE, FUN,
FAMILY FRIENDLY**
COMMUNITY GRAVEL EVENT



BORDEN BACKTRACKS **RIDE - STRIDE - CONNECT**

 FROM 2PM AT
THE BORDEN PAVILION

 ALL AGES AND
ABILITIES WELCOME

 REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN
events.humanitix.com/borden-backtracks

 FREE AFTERNOON TEA
AND DINNER

STAY TUNED FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION OR
CHECK OUR INSTAGRAM

REGISTER HERE



9

15

16



WILD GRAVEL NEWS

REGISTER NOW

Standard pricing will end soon and late entry prices will kick in. If you haven't already, register now at race.roster.com

EVENTS

Walks 5 | 10

Runs 5 | 10 | 21 | 42

Trail Runs 11 | 21

Rides 10 | 30 | 60 | 100

150 | trail 95 | ultra 420

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wildgravel.com.au

EVENT VILLAGE OFFERINGS

- Food trucks
- Boost Juice
- Dune Brewery Bar
- Live Screen
- Local produce

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Glamping tents available at Mt Trio Bushcamp, head to race.roster.com to book

Monday Night Sports Finishes Term 3 with a Bang!

What a way to finish the term! Monday Night Sports wrapped up with a Monster Inflatables Night, bringing plenty of laughs, friendly competition and fun to the Gnowangerup Sporting Complex.

Monsterball travelled to Gnowangerup with a fantastic line-up of activities, including a bungee run, jousting, giant sumo suits and a couple of impressive jumping castles. It was a great way to celebrate what has been a hugely successful sporting programme.

Throughout the term, participants had the opportunity to try a range of sports, including basketball, pickleball, volleyball, indoor hockey, indoor soccer and badminton, with a focus on having fun, learning new skills and getting active in a relaxed, social environment.

The Shire also supported Active Kids in Borden, helping provide more opportunities for children across the Shire to get involved in sport and recreation. Both programmes have enjoyed fantastic turnouts each week, with the kids already asking Courtney what's coming next!

Monday Night Sports has been proudly supported by the Western Australian Government through Place Based Sport and Recreation funding, administered by the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport. This funding has helped create more opportunities for local families to get active, try something new and connect with their community.

What's next? That's up to you!

The Shire is keen to build on the success of these programmes and would love to hear from the community. Is there a sport you'd like to try, an activity you'd love to see offered or an idea for something completely different?

Get in touch with the Community Development team and help shape what's coming next.

Contact Courtney at courtney.miniter@gnowangerup.wa.gov.au or call the Shire on 9827 1007.





Shire of
GNOWANGERUP

BORDEN ♦ GNOWANGERUP ♦ ONGERUP

Heart of the Stirlings

Rates



Haven't received your rates notice?

Rates notices have been issued. If you were expecting one and it hasn't arrived, please contact the Shire so staff can check the details held for your property.



(08) 9827 1007



gnpshire@gnowangerup.wa.gov.au

It's also a good opportunity to make sure your postal and contact details are up to date.



It's as easy as

One

Two

Tree



Plant a Native Tree and Receive a Rebate

Western Australians are being encouraged to help grow greener, cooler communities through the WA Government's Treebate program.

The initiative provides eligible residents aged 18 years and over with a rebate of up to \$150 when they purchase and plant an eligible Australian native tree on their private property.

Native trees do more than enhance a garden. They provide shade, improve local biodiversity, create habitat for wildlife and contribute to cooler neighbourhoods. Across the Great Southern, mature native trees are a defining feature of the landscape, and planting more today will help ensure future generations enjoy the same benefits.

To claim the rebate, participants should:

- Purchase an eligible Australian native tree capable of reaching at least three metres in height at maturity.
- Keep the tax invoice.
- Take a photo of the plant label.
- Submit the claim through the ServiceWA app.

The Treebate program opened in July 2025 and will continue for four years.

For more information, including eligibility criteria and a list of eligible species, visit wa.gov.au/treebate.



EST. 2000
FRANKLAND RIVER
WINE REGION

THE
FRANKLAND
RIVER WINE
FESTIVAL

OCT
17

12PM-7PM

Featuring...

SILAS
MASIH

TRE
AMICI

BUY
YOUR
TICKET



FAMILY FRIENDLY • LIVE MUSIC • WINE • FOOD • LOCAL PRODUCE

ALKOOMI • SWINNEY • FRANKLAND ESTATE
FERNGROVE • LANGE ESTATE • CHERUBINO