

# APRIL 2026

Welcome to Djeran | The season of adulthood

## THIS MONTH...

A message from our  
Shire President  
and CEO

Dandjoo Day award  
recipients and  
nominees

Roads with Rick



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



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## Shire President - Kate O'Keeffe Monthly Message



Welcome everyone to April.

I sincerely hope that last weekend's rain reached all corners of our Shire. It has been wonderful to see so many tractors already working in the paddocks, in spite of what is proving to be some very challenging supply chain conditions.

Last month convened a Local Emergency Management Committee meeting to discuss the current fuel supply situation within our Shire. While there is very little within the direct control of local government, we are working closely with our largest independent fuel distributor to ensure we remain well-informed and able to communicate effectively with our community. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Ron and Jodie Beeck for their efforts in ensuring that emergency service vehicles and school bus services are prioritised during this time, and working with their customers to ensure everyone can keep moving. I have

also written to the Premier and the Minister for Energy expressing our grave concern regarding the availability of diesel fuel in regional areas, and requesting that the supply of fuel to regional Western Australia be treated as a priority.

The National Rural Health Alliance met last week as we continue our work to recoup the cost of supporting a general practitioner within the Shire of Gnowangerup. This remains a significant financial burden for small local governments, and we continue to advocate strongly at both a state and federal level for a more sustainable funding model. I am very grateful to both Peter Rundle MLA and Rick Wilson MP for their ongoing support in this space.

In more positive news, those of you who have visited the airport recently will have noticed the completion of a large new hangar. This is an exciting addition to the Gnowangerup airstrip, and we look forward to formally welcoming Joyce Air to the Shire in the near future. Congratulations also to the Gnowangerup CRC on the success of their second Fly-In, which showcased our incredible airstrip — truly one of the many jewels in the crown of our Shire.

I am also very pleased to report that the bridge on Park Road in Gnowangerup has now been completed and is officially open. This project has been a long time in the making and forms part of the tourist trail leading to the springs that once fed the original Gnowangerup swimming pool. We are currently working with our Indigenous community to determine an appropriate name for the bridge, and I encourage any community members with suggestions to share them with their elected members or contact the Shire directly.

## Shire President - Kate O'Keeffe Monthly Message

To all of the bowlers across our Shire — I hope you have now retired your bowls for the season and reflect proudly on what has been another fantastic year. We are fortunate to have three outstanding bowling greens within our Shire, and it is wonderful to see such strong participation and competition both locally and across the region. Likewise, the tennis players will be enjoying a well-earned rest, it has been terrific seeing so many residents' enjoying pennants tennis, coaching (including cardio-tennis) and junior tournaments. Now it is time for the Winter Sports Season to commence, with fixtures commencing this coming weekend April 11. Good luck to all players, coaches and officials.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Councillor-elect Joanne Hemley, who will be sworn in on Wednesday 8 April. Joanne will be an excellent addition to Council, and we look forward to working alongside her. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the other four nominees who put themselves forward for this position. Nominating for Council is no small undertaking, and I commend each of you for your willingness to serve and for conducting yourselves with integrity throughout the process. I encourage you all to consider nominating again in 2027 when our next elections are held.

As a reminder, Council's key priorities for the year ahead include reviewing our rates system, improving our road network — including the development of a long-term strategic road plan — and investigating the future delivery of waste services within our Shire. We are somewhat unique in offering three waste facilities, all currently unmanned, and it is a priority for Council to explore a model that is safe, practical from a management perspective, and user-friendly for our ratepayers.

Wishing everyone a happy — and hopefully wet — April. As always, I encourage you to reach out to any of your elected members should you have any matters you would like to discuss.



## From the CEO's desk



A recent drive around on the eastern side of the Shire provided an opportunity for me to review road conditions. While maintaining our extensive road network is always an ongoing challenge, it was pleasing to see that most roads were in good condition. Equally encouraging was the strong focus on safety demonstrated by our outdoor team members, who continue to uphold high standards through proper vehicle checks, clear signage and full use of PPE.

The Local Emergency Management Committee met for its quarterly session, with discussions centred on emerging risks associated with increasing visitor numbers to the Stirling Range. A hands-on recovery exercise using a scenario based board simulation created a productive and engaging environment for testing decision making and coordination. An additional emergency meeting was also convened at short notice to ensure a shared understanding of potential fuel supply concerns affecting the state. Fortunately, impact has been limited to price escalation. Fuel outage would create another and significantly higher level of complexity.

I attended a workshop in Perth mid-month to discuss proposed guidelines for Bushfire Places of Last Resort. These facilities provide a level of protection when evacuation is not possible, particularly for visitors or people unfamiliar with the area. While the concept is sound, it raises important questions that are now being explored collaboratively with Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

Community consultation sessions were held with consultants working on the Shire's first Economic Development Strategy. This strategy will help guide long-term growth and act as a prospectus when engaging with potential investors.

The annual Dandjoo Day community celebration event was held on the 13 March which gave us the opportunity to recognise the significant contributions of local volunteers and community groups. The event was well attended and created a positive, appreciative atmosphere.

The Shire's Finance Team is currently working on the 2026/27 Budget and the update of the Long-Term Financial Plan, both essential tools for responsible planning. Work is also progressing on updates to the Workforce Plan and the Public Health Plan to ensure they reflect current needs and support community wellbeing.

Thank you to the community members who have shared positive feedback about our public facilities. Your comments are greatly appreciated.

## Roads with Rick - Infrastructure and Assets



The Shire had a strategic planning day with Councillors at the end of January 2026 and the clear message from the community was the high value placed on providing better roads. We listened and will be collecting data on our roads to develop strategic plans to put in place multi year renewal programs to better manage and improve our roads along with a gravel resource plan to provide the necessary materials.

Also watch this space as we roll out some innovative maintenance practices in the future to treat more kilometers of rough roads over summer and during harvest.

### What's happening around the roads ?

General maintenance grading, road repairs and drain cleanouts were some of the activities for the following roads in March 2026: Boxwood/Ongerup Rd, Oakdale Rd, Holden Rd, Stewarts Rd, Gleeson Rd, Kelly Rd, Gravel Pit Access Roads Rehabilitation, Ongerup Waste Facility Internal Roads, Magitup Rd, New Country Rd, Highdenup Rd , Maileeup Rd, Sheperdson Rd, Araluen Rd, Soldiers Rd, Walsh Rd, Stutley St and Bell St.

With some nearby gravel stockpiles we were able to give some extra attention to Kelly Rd to top up some sections with extra gravel. This improvement will address complaints received last year that also resulted in a vehicle sliding off the road during wintery weather.

A contract was recently awarded to do floodway and road widening upgrades on sections of Tieline Rd (East of Kwobrup Rd )and is expected to commence the week following Easter. To allow floodway works and culvert replacement to be completed quickly and safely the section of road between Moores Dam Road and Mindarabin Rd will be temporarily closed for up to 7 days while the works are completed. Your cooperation and patience in the delivery of this road improvement is appreciated.

### Gravel Resheet Program

Did you know that under Local Government regulations that a competitive open tender process has to be followed in selecting a contractor to work for the shire. Congratulations to local contractor RM Contracting for winning the gravel resheet job and delivering shire investment for better local roads. This project will improve and extend the life of gravel roads and delivers 26.4 kms of gravel resheets this financial year. Also, in response to the rapid deterioration over the harvest period in some sections of Nightwell Rd we were able to adjust the program and treat and fix 6.4km section of damaged road. Roads completed include Old Ongerup Rd, Tieline Rd, Oakdale Rd, Cowalellup Rd, Sandalwood Rd and Magitup Rd. Nightwell Rd is the final road with works currently in progress and will be completed just after Easter.

## How the community can help us help you....



Drive to conditions, especially when dusty or rough in summer or after rain in winter. Save the roads and avoid heavy-vehicle/truck use on soft, wet roads.



We want to hear your ideas/ suggestions to better maintain or make improvements to our roads.



We want you to share if you have gravel or know where some is, as this helps us to look after the shire roads as efficiently and cost effectively as possible – BIG Thank you to landowners that have reached out to the shire and looking forward to more calls as we plan for the future .



Report directly to the shire, hazards/suggestions or storm damage on 9827 1007 or via shire website/email or free phone app ‘Snap Send Solve’ – This helps us to target and deliver our service to you and requests are logged and tracked to completion.



Take care around graders, road crews and worksites – enjoy our great views and slow down.



## Dandjoo Day - Volunteer recognition awards

On Friday the 13 March the Shire hosted the annual Dandjoo awards at the Borden Pavilion. It was fantastic to see the community come together for a night of reflection and appreciation. The food catered by Michelle Richardson (Caternig) was delightful. The Shire would like to congratulate all the nominees and award winners.

### COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR - BORDEN, GNOWANGERUP AND ONGERUP BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

On 16 December 2025 Gnowangerup, Borden and Ongerup volunteer Bushfire Brigades attended an out of control fire in Mindarabin. Lead by Incident Controller Darren Baum, they coordinated and managed over 100 firefighters and resources in extreme weather conditions. Their efforts saved three farmhouses and many livestock. Their extraordinary effort and determination stopped the fire from travelling to Ongerup townsite. Everyone's bravery, selfless mindset and tireless contribution needs to be highly recognised.

They saved the surrounding houses during a house fire in Gnowangerup in 2025. Saved the Borden tip and surrounding bushland 2025. They attended five separate arson roadside fires that put a farmhouse and flora and fauna at risk February 2025.

All members of the brigades are volunteers. They take time away from family and employment to attend fires to save properties and stock. An inspiration to all community members.

All three volunteer Bushfire brigades continuously stand up, day and night when needed. Their efforts saved property and lives, and they do it without seeking recognition. Definitely the quiet achievers of our community. Our hero's when needed.



## Dandjoo Day - Volunteer recognition awards

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - DARREN ROBERTSON

Darren is an outstanding and inspirational role model within our community, consistently going above and beyond in his service to others. Whether through catering support, generous donations, volunteering his time, or serving with the ambulance service, he contributes wherever he is needed without hesitation.

Nothing is ever too much trouble for Darren. He gives freely of his time and energy without seeking recognition or reward, motivated purely by kindness, compassion, and a genuine commitment to helping others. His generosity, reliability, and community spirit have made a meaningful impact and are deeply appreciated by those around him.

Darren very quickly joined up to volunteer with Gnowangerup's St John Ambulance service and the Bushfire Brigade. Since joining St John as an Emergency Management Technician in 2023, Darren has served over **250hrs**, of which 140hrs were in 2025 alone.

Darren is regularly out and about offering emergency services during the night when everyone is asleep. He never says no and is very reliable to work with on difficult jobs.

Darren has been an active and committed community member for many years, contributing his time and expertise through service on various local boards and committees. His involvement across multiple groups highlights both his dedication to community development and the trust placed in him by others to help guide decisions and support positive outcomes.

Through these board and committee roles, Darren has contributed to planning, coordination, and decision-making that strengthens local organisations and initiatives. He is known for being dependable, practical, and solutions-focused, and he brings a collaborative approach to every group he supports. As a committee and board participant, he consistently adds value through thoughtful input, hands-on help, and a strong work ethic.



## Dandjoo Day - Volunteer recognition awards

### SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - ROD MOIR

For over 30 years Rod, ably helped by his wife Susan, has organised, arranged and lead our Borden ANZAC Day service. This is the only daytime ANZAC service offered in the Shire. In this voluntary role Rod has ensured the ANZAC spirit and story has remained relevant and integral to our local calendar of events, contributing to growth in participation year on year. Rod's organisation of the poignant service includes preparing the grounds and rooms for the service, seeking out a different (and always interesting) guest speaker each year and also running the service on the day.

As a member of the Borden Bowling Club for over 40 years (and a Life Member since 2018) Rod has had a huge influence on the club, always welcoming and encouraging new bowls players, providing skills mentoring, and ensuring the club's facilities remain top class through his efforts watering and mowing the grass bowling club greens at the old bowling club and more recently helping with the rolling and watering of the synthetic greens at the newer bowling club premises.

Over various years Rod has held almost every committee position of the Club and when it was Borden's turn he willingly took on the task of President of the Central Stirling Bowls League.

Rod is also active around the Borden Pavilion, rarely missing a busy bee and without fanfare for many years has quietly completed tasks like the weekly retrieval of the centres bins on rubbish day, loose rubbish pick-up and weeding and when needed even corralling the many free campers found at times around the facility into more appropriate locations.

Selflessly, at times when the Shire has not had a Borden gardener, Rod has made it his job to place the town street bins back into their enclosures after the rubbish truck has been. Without being asked Rod can also often be seen weeding parts of town that are missed, and consistently removing rubbish from the sides of the roads both in town and on the outskirts to ensure our town and its entrance remain tidy and rubbish free.

Rod is always inclusive. He makes people in our community feel welcome and valued. He invites those visiting our community to become part of it for however long they stay. Rod's can-do, 'on the quiet attitude' to everything he does is inspirational to young and old. He truly 'serves' our community, asking for nothing in return and often without anyone being aware of what he is completing.

Rod is also a fantastic ambassador and friend to all age groups within our community, reaching out to phone people for a chat just when they might need it most or offering a word or two of encouragement when people embark on a new business venture, stand for a community club position or are just trying something new in their lives.



## **Dandjoo Day - Volunteer recognition awards**

### **JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - MURRAY HAYWARD**

Murray Hayward Jnr is a well-respected young adult who gives up his time to help support our youth in Gnowangerup from helping out at junior football and cricket trainings to just playing basketball in the park. Murray is always there when children need someone to talk to.

Murray helped with both house fire incidents in Gnowangerup, he put his own life at risk trying to get into the house where an elderly couple lived. With the house fire on Hughes Street it was great to see the resilience in Murray to help our volunteers by standing with a fire hose knowing the situation and trauma he carried with him from the House Street fire in 2023.

## **Congratulations to all the 2026 nominees!**

*Remember Dandjoo award nominations are open all year round! Visit the Shire website for the nomination form*

**Linda Starke**

**Rosalyn Smith**

**Roslynn Thompson**

**Tom McInerney**

**Ongerup Community**

**Development**

**Peter Twigg**

**Todd De'souza**

## TIP PASSES – Need Updating

The Shire of Gnowangerup is reviewing access to all our waste sites.

As part of the review process it has been noted that a number of waste site pass cards have contact details that is missing or incomplete.

These cards will be deactivated on the 30 April 2026 if details are not provided prior to this date. To reactivate a new application please submit to the Shire.

Cards numbers underlined below, have access to more than one waste site . It is intended that card owners generally have access to one waste site closest to their property. Exceptions may be if a person has ownership of more than one property in other catchment zones. This is to be stated in your application.

The cards numbers that are affected are listed below.

### Gnowangerup Waste site

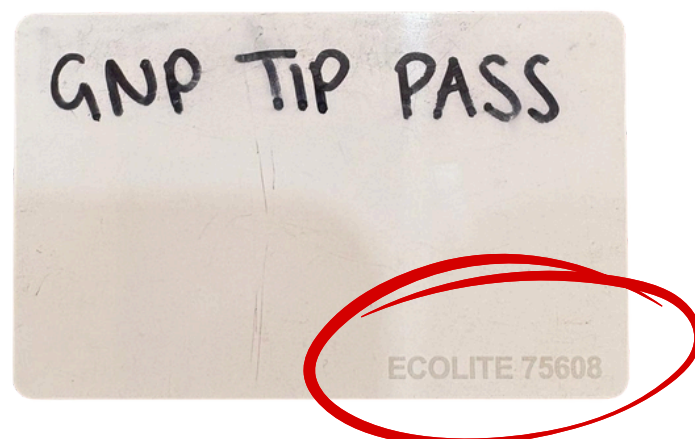
1706, 1718, 1739, 1749, 2259, 2261, 2264, 2585  
10859, 10895, 10920, 10937, 10963, 10993, 10995  
10998

### Borden Waste Site

1701, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1730, 1733, 1739, 2258, 2262  
2264, 2268, 2282, 2293, 2297, 2298, 2304, 2323, 2324  
2326, 2331, 2333, 2335, 2338, 2342, 2346, 2349, 2364  
2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2380, 2382  
2383, 2384, 2385, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2393, 2394  
2396, 2398, 2404, 2406, 2407, 2420, 2421, 2430, 2431  
2469, 2470, 2481, 2483, 2489, 2493, 2500, 2502, 2506  
2513, 2517, 2523, 2536, 2537, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542  
2543, 2544, 2545, 2547, 2550, 2551, 2555, 2556, 2558  
2560, 2570, 2571, 2598, 2604, 2623, 2624, 2630, 2637  
2647, 2652, 2658, 2661, 2673, 2680, 2716, 2723, 2732  
2740, 2745  
10757, 10761, 10762, 10772, 10775, 10782, 10788  
10789, 10792, 10809, 10823, 10825, 10835, 10853  
10854, 10856, 10862, 10880, 10885, 10891, 10893  
10904, 10907, 10912, 10917, 10925, 10941, 10947  
10961, 10962, 10963, 10966, 10967, 10979, 10981  
10983, 10987, 10994

### Ongerup Waste Site

1708, 1710, 1730, 1739, 1749, 2262, 2264, 2265  
2266, 2268, 2275, 2293, 2294, 2303, 2335, 2338  
2340, 2341, 2346, 2349, 2351, 2356, 2357, 2359  
2360, 2362, 2364, 2365, 2367, 2400, 2415, 2420  
2421, 2431, 2432, 2439, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2454  
2470, 2481, 2495, 2497, 2500, 2502, 2503, 2504  
2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2513, 2515  
2517, 2519, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2527, 2530  
2531, 2533, 2537, 2554, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2620  
2637, 2673, 2681, 2698  
10750, 10753, 10776, 10782, 10785, 10789  
10805, 10806, 10830, 10842, 10844, 10854  
10864, 10866, 10891, 10915, 10926, 10941  
10942, 10958, 10961, 10963, 10966, 10970  
10972, 10981, 10983



## Kerbside Rubbish Bins

Did you know that in the Shire of Gnowangerup the kerbside mobile bins are generally the property of the house owner?

All residents please note that the 240-rubbish bin service requires your assistance.

The two bins (green/red top – Household Waste and yellow top – Recycling) are owned and maintained by the property owner.

Some of the bins are now in poor condition and need maintenance or replacing.

If your bin is not serviceable the truck operator can refuse to empty it, for example if the bin has a crack, contents may spill on to the ground or slip into the rubbish truck hopper.

### All bins need the following:

- ✓ A fully functioning lid so litter is not blown out, or birds cannot pull rubbish out;
- ✓ A set of wheels as this stabilises the bin from falling over in strong winds or when picked up by the rubbish truck;
- ✓ No large cracks or holes as this reduces the strength of the bin causing it to slip through the bin lift into the bin hopper.

The rubbish/recycling truck operator takes all due care during emptying the bins, but as the bin owner you need to ensure that it is in good condition so it can be emptied in a safe manner. Bins can be purchased from the local hardware stores or other outlets as required.

Please be advised the Gnowangerup Community Swimming Pool will close for the season on Thursday 9 April. The last day for swimming will be Wednesday 8 April

**Gnowangerup Community Swimming Pool**

Learn Play Plunge  
Swim spray snorkel  
dive race

## The Shire of Gnowangerup has recognised the outstanding work of one of its volunteers.

Daniel McBlane has been on a work experience placement at the swimming pool throughout the summer season. Daniel has autism and is accompanied by his support worker when he attends the pool every Friday. When he first started in the role, Daniel noticed that the CCTV pictures were blurry on the computer screen, so he took it upon himself to create a tool (a cloth tied to a broom handle) to clean the cameras and improved the quality of the images. The pool was broken into recently and, thanks to Daniel, the CCTV images were clear enough to help the police identify the culprits.



Community and Economic Development Manager, Stuart Drummond, presented Daniel with a certificate to recognise his excellent contribution to the work of the Shire.

## Extraordinary Election Result

An extraordinary election was held on Thursday 26 March. A warm welcome and congratulations to Joanne Hemley who was voted in by majority. The Shire look forward to working with Jo.



Form 15 Results of Election  
Local Government Act 1995, s.477

**RESULTS OF ELECTION FOR Shire of Gnowangerup**

Date of election: 26 March 2026

FOUR MEMBERS		
Candidate	First preference votes	Votes at last count
PEUCKER, Mal	31	31
STARKE, Colin	16	16
HECK, Timothy	85	85
HEMLEY, Joanne	182	182
MARTIN, Lex	17	17

Name of first candidate to be elected:  
HEMLEY, Joanne

Name of second candidate to be elected:  
PEUCKER, Mal

The following person is elected as councillor for the Gnowangerup District.  
The 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
Joanne HEMLEY	20 October 2029

Returning Officer: Full name: Annabel PAULLEY  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 27/03/2026

**Candidate Details**

Ballot paper name: **HEMLEY, Joanne**

Candidate name: **HEMLEY, Joanne**

District: **Shire of Gnowangerup**

Nominating for: **Councillor for Shire of Gnowangerup**

Election type: **Extraordinary**

Eligibility status: **HEMLEY, Joanne is eligible to stand for election as a resident of the Shire of Gnowangerup.**

Having spent most of my life living in various parts of our shire, I have developed a deep appreciation for our communities and what they offer.

I have been a teacher, wife, mother and farm secretary for the past thirty years. I remain passionate about how educated and strong communities can shape the future, and I support a progressive but practical approach to community governance.

Over the years, I have been involved in a lot of sporting and community groups as a participant, coach or committee member, and I believe that supporting people to be actively involved in the community is essential for wellbeing.

Rural shires like ours and the businesses within them consistently face challenges when it comes to the provision of goods, services, events, facilities and infrastructure. I am proud to live in a place that is proactive in overcoming the hurdles that accompany rural living, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to this as a shire councillor.

**Mobile:** 0437 285 036  
**Postal Address:** 1053 Mindarbin Rd GNOWANGERUP 6335  
**Email:** jo74hemley@hotmail.com

# WHATS ON THIS APRIL

FREE EVENTS

## DANCE CLASS

7 APRIL 2026

4-7yrs from 10am

8+yrs from 11:30am



## SOCCER CLINIC

10 APRIL 2026

See flyer for session times



## COMEDY WORKSHOP AND SHOW

13 APRIL 2026

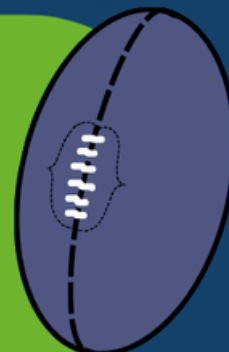
Kids workshops at 2:30pm | Adults show from 6pm



## AFL FOOTY CLINIC

16 APRIL 2026

Girls and boys sessions - check flyer for details



## ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING

21 APRIL 2026

Kids session at school | Parents session at the complex in the evening time TBC



Youth ~~~~~  
Open ~~~~~



# BYE SCHOOL HELLO HOLIDAYS

**12pm-3pm**

**FREE  
BBQ**

**Door Prize**

**Free Entry**

**4TH  
APRIL**

**Music - Games - Food- Prizes**

**Gnowangerup Community  
Swimming Pool**