

SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome to Djilba | Growth of plants and flowering explosion

THIS MONTH...

A message from our
Shire President
and CEO

Bike Helmets for
Gnowangerup Shire
Kids

Library News

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



Great Southern Country Zone Meeting

In late August, the Shire of Gnowangerup joined other local governments in our zone for a collective meeting to discuss ways to improve services and attract financial support from both the State and Federal Governments. Our zone's collaboration is a valuable partnership, and we hope to see improvements in the delivery of emergency services and, of course, medical funding in the months ahead.

Advocating for Rural Health Funding

On the last Friday in August, the CEO and I travelled to Northam to present a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport, representing

the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance. It was an excellent opportunity to speak with federal government representatives about how Financial Assistance Grants are not adequately serving local governments that have moved into funding GP services. We were able to offer suggestions on how the federal and state governments could better support local governments that are paying for their communities' doctor services. We look forward to receiving the results of the committee's inquiry.

Council Training

Last week, councillors completed a two-day training workshop covering CEO recruitment training and CEO review committee procedures. This training was excellent for all councillors, and we were joined by neighbouring shires on both days.

Continuing on the theme of professional development, several of our councillors will be attending Local Government Week from 16 to 18 September. The conference schedule this year is a rigorous one, and all councillors in attendance will be working hard on our Shire's behalf. Thanks to all councillors and staff who are attending — professional learning is critical to improvement, and I look forward to sharing what we learn.

Minister's Visit

We look forward to welcoming Minister Reece Whitby to the Shire on 22 September. This will be a great opportunity to update the Minister on the happenings of our Shire and region, and to look for ways the State can assist us.

Shire President - Kate O'Keeffe Monthly Message

End of Winter Sports Season

As the winter sports season draws to a close, it's time to reflect on a great year of local sport.

Congratulations to Boxwood Hill on hosting an excellent grand final on the 29th of August. It was a fantastic day for our football community, and the club and its volunteers should be very proud of the event they put together.

Congratulations also to Gnowangerup's junior hockey and football players on winning the 2026 premiership — a wonderful achievement for our young athletes and a credit to their coaches, families and supporters.

And to our Gnowangerup netballers and hockey players whose grand final campaigns didn't go their way this year, commiserations — you represented our community with pride all season, and we look forward to seeing you back on court and field next year.

Thank you to everyone who played, coached, umpired, volunteered and cheered from the sidelines this winter. It's this kind of community spirit that makes our Shire such a great place to live.

Nominate for Wild Gravel

Lastly, I'd like to remind everyone to nominate for Wild Gravel as soon as they can! At the Winter Sports Windup, it was announced that whichever Gnowangerup winter sporting club has the most participants in the event — including volunteers — will win a substantial cash prize. So if you haven't already signed up, or offered to volunteer, I encourage you to do so now!

Here's to a wet September for all the farmers in the Shire, and lots of rainbows and good cheer along with it.

Until next month,
Kate O'Keeffe
Shire President
Shire of Gnowangerup



From the CEO's desk



This month has highlighted the broad and important work happening across the Shire, from planning for future challenges through to everyday service delivery, Council business and keeping our people safe.

Although the weather is still cool, preparation for the 2026/27 fire season is already well underway. Daniel Biddulph, the Shire's Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator continues to progress mitigation work, while Phill Gunn the Shire's Community Emergency Services Manager, is preparing to ramp up the volunteer firefighters training programme. Recent in-house emergency management discussions have focused on making sure our plans are practical, coordinated and ready. We all hope for a quiet fire

season, but early preparation puts us in the best position to respond well if conditions become difficult.

There have also been excellent examples of Shire staff going the extra mile. Penny Wells recently gave up much of her day off to help deliver a fitting farewell for Todd D'Souza, the Shire's departing Police Officer in Charge.



Shire President Kate O'Keeffe, Councillor Robbie Miniter, and community members Tim Beeck and Rod gave heart warming speeches to Todd and Tasma, highlighting the impact they have had on our community.

Administration staff also put their first aid training to use during a medical event, responding calmly and caringly. Customer Service staff Sarah Henning and Makayla Stutley handled difficult customer interactions with patience and kindness, while two members from the Shire's Regulatory team (Adrian Nicoll and Matt Bowen) received positive feedback from a resident for being approachable and helpful. These moments show our values in action.

From the CEO's desk

Council business has also been busy. The monthly Council Agenda Briefing and Workshop came together earlier than usual thanks to the work of report authors and the support of Ayrene Bautista and Clementine Illy with logistics. The Shire's Community and Economic Development Manager Stuart Drummond presented several strategic reports, Rick Miller briefed Council on road work tenders, with Council also considering sporting complex payments, policy reviews, the annual compliance return, Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee minutes, airport fees and road tenders.

We received disappointing news on several grant applications, including staff housing in Whitehead Road, housing in Quinn Street for nurses and teachers, and the Gnowangerup recreation precinct project. A great deal of work has gone into these grant submissions through planning, consultation, agency engagement and project development. While the outcome is frustrating, it is not the end of the road and project teams are now looking at Plan B options.

A big thank you goes to Anrie van Zyl for continuing to make sure all Shire staff get paid while we go through payroll system upgrade. The Shire's Deputy CEO, Tom Gorman and a small project team, are working behind the scenes on this upgrade, which is expected to reduce administrative work and give staff more control over some of their own information.

Safety has remained front and centre. Rick Miller and I had useful safety interactions with outdoor crews and contractors, including a conversation with Shire depot workers on Borden-Bremer Bay Road who were replacing a damaged slasher blade. It was pleasing to see clear controls in place and a strong focus on making sure everyone gets home safely.

The Shire's Safety Committee had its quarterly meeting, with the focus being on recent safety audit findings. Concerningly, while the audit identified issues requiring attention the positive is that they are now visible and can be addressed properly.

Our Values



Safety

Ensuring a secure and welcoming environment for all.



Tenacity

Demonstrating determination and resilience in all we do.



Integrity

Acting with honesty, transparency and fairness.



Collaboration

Working together with respect and shared purpose.

Roads with Rick – Infrastructure and Assets



Stutley Street – Gnowangerup – Field Day – Claycrete Gravel Road Stabilisation Trial

Claycrete Global is an Australian company behind a patented chemical soil stabilisation technology developed for road construction, airstrips, hardstands, grain storage pads, mining roads, and other civil infrastructure applications. The company markets the product globally through a network of regional representatives and now with a focus on the Australian market, offered a free sample of the product to the Shire to trial on a 450 metre section of a town gravel road. They hosted a field day to supervise application by the Shire to treat the road to increase its strength and eliminate summer dust issues.

The trial provides the Shire with an opportunity to assess construction performance, pavement behaviour and the potential for reduced ongoing maintenance and will be monitored over the next 6 months before considering its suitability for broader application across the road network. If successful it will provide a low cost, long term solution option to treat certain gravel roads to improve strength, reduce dust and be more stable and less slippery from wet weather.



Roads with Rick – Infrastructure and Assets

Roads and Roadside Maintenance

- **Mindarabin Road**
 - Gravel patching in conjunction with maintenance grading to address pavement defects and improve the condition and serviceability of the road. Some areas affected by the recent rain will be tidied up once the road dries out from some warmer weather.
- **Nightwell Road and Borden–Bremer Bay Road**
 - Road verge slashing was undertaken along as part of the Shire's roadside vegetation management program.
- Fallen trees and debris were removed from roads at various locations across the Shire following periods of bad weather, restoring safe access and maintaining the serviceability of the road network.
- Guideposts and traffic signs were installed and replaced at various locations throughout the Shire road network as part of ongoing road safety and maintenance activities.



Grading

- Cleveland Road
- Toompup South Road
- Laurier South Road
- Soldiers Road
- Peerup Road
- Jackitup West Road
- Laurier Road
- Pandalup Road
- Mindarabin Road
- Pinnacle Road
- Moores Dam Road



Roads with Rick – Infrastructure and Assets

What You Can do to Help us Help You..

Drive to conditions, slow down around road crews and worksites, and report hazards or storm damage promptly. Together, responsible driving, sound planning and continued investment will help deliver a safer and more resilient road network.

If you see a problem or a hazard don't drive past it! Please Report It 😊

The community plays an important role in helping the Shire identify road damage and hazards. Issues such as flooding, washouts, damaged culverts, fallen trees, missing signs and guideposts, severe rutting or other road hazards can be reported by any of the following:



Use the free mobile app to submit the location, photos and details of the issue



Phone the Shire administration office
08 9827 1007



In person
Drop into the office
28 Yougenup Rd
Gnowangerup



Visit the website to submit a feedback form

When reporting a problem, please provide the road name, approximate location or nearest landmark, the type of hazard and, if possible, photographs taken from a safe location. Clear information helps Shire staff find the problem, assess the risk and arrange an appropriate response in a timely manner.



*Safer roads,
Stronger communities*

Adult Fiction Spotlight



Check out our amazing **eResources!**

- Borrowbox
- Libby
- Hoopla Digital
- StoryBox Library
- LOTE4KIDS
- Kanopy

Find us on **Facebook** for the latest news and updates!

Visit our **website** to view our full library catalogue!

Children's Book Week

Last thursday Gnowangerup Public Library hosted our annual book week event with author Dianne Wolfer as our lovely presenter. Students from Gnowangerup District High School had the opportunity to learn from Dianne.

Dianne Wolfer is an award winning children's author currently living in Albany. Students and teachers were delighted to learn about the local inspirations behind her works. It's so important for students to feel connected to the stories they read and it's events like book week that facilitate this connection.



Ride Wild, Ride Safe

New Road Safety Commission funding will put a new bike helmet on the head of every child in the Shire.

The Shire of Gnowangerup has been successful in securing funding from the Road Safety Commission to deliver Ride Wild, Ride Safe, a new community cycling initiative in the lead-up to Wild Gravel.



With Wild Gravel heading into its third year, there has been a huge increase in local interest in cycling. Families, children and adults are getting on their bikes more often, creating a great opportunity to make sure this growing participation is matched with the right safety gear, skills and safe riding habits.

The need for a stronger local road safety message has come directly from the community, with support from the local Police Officer in Charge. As part of the initiative, the Shire has purchased a brand-new bike helmet for every child in the Shire which the Community Development team picked up from Albany last week.

Fun helmet decorating sessions are also being planned, giving children the chance to personalise their new helmets while reinforcing the importance of wearing one every time they ride. Along with Cycle Sense workshops being held over the next two months to increase participation in the sport.

Ride Wild, Ride Safe aims to remove barriers to participation, build confidence among new and returning riders and encourage positive road safety behaviours that will continue well beyond Wild Gravel.

Keep an eye out for details on helmet distribution and decorating sessions coming soon.

GLAMPING NOW AVAILABLE

Make a weekend of Wild Gravel!

Accommodation around the Stirling Range fills quickly for Wild Gravel, so this year Wild Gravel has looked outside the box and brought glamping to Mt Trio Bush Camp & Caravan Park.

For locals, it's the perfect excuse for a little staycation. Head back to Mt Trio after Wild Gravel, enjoy a few drinks and live music at the After Party, then wander back to your very own glamping tent and spend the night under the stars – without having to rough it!

Better still, the more people you share with, the cheaper it gets, so grab a few friends and make a weekend of it.

To book, head to wildgravel.com.au and click the Accommodation tab. Spaces are limited, so get in early!



WILD GRAVEL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

“
Such a fun day
immersed in
community culture
”

“
A great way to
meet community
minded people
”

“
Connection with nature
”

“
Fun and friendly
atmosphere makes for
an awesome day
”

Sign up at wildgravel.com



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.



OCTOBER 8 2026

**REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN VIA HUMANITIX
FIND THEM ON INSTAGRAM**



SCAN TO REGISTER



**Community
Gravel 2025**

HAVE YOUR SAY: EARLY CANCER DIAGNOSIS IN RURAL WA

HELP US IMPROVE CANCER CARE FOR RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES



We are exploring attitudes, experiences, and barriers around seeking medical help for possible cancer symptoms. Findings will help improve cancer campaigns and services for rural Western Australians.

Eligibility:

- ✓ 40 years and older
- ✓ Living in rural or remote Western Australia
(regions: Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid West, Goldfields, Great Southern, South West, Wheatbelt)

Participation involves completing an online survey taking only 20 minutes. Click the link or scan the QR code to find out more!

