



# Preston Press

Community News

Donnybrook, Kirup, Balingup, Mullalyup, Lowden, Mumballup, Noggerup, Yabberup

[www.donnybrook.crc.net.au/preston-press](http://www.donnybrook.crc.net.au/preston-press)

December 2023

Free, monthly



*IN TUNE: Kirup Primary School students (standing from left) Kadell, Aedan, Vera, Phoenix, Kaleb and Frankee; (seated from left) Harper, Izzy, Jona and Jack rehearse for their end-of-year school concert.*

## Preparing for the Christmas pantomime

STUDENTS at Kirup Primary School began learning to play the ukulele earlier this year and their musical achievements will be on display at the end-of-year 'Grinchmas' concert being held on Wednesday 13 December. The concert will include a mini-pantomime, ukulele songs, Christmas Carols and a visit from Santa.



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*Celebrating 20 years of serving the community 2003 - 2023*

Preston Press Issue 237 - December 2023



## Preston Press

Community News

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If you are connected with a community group or event, please share your news with us by sending the details to the above email address.

**Deadlines for the February 2024 issue are Wednesday 17 January for advertising and Friday 19 January for articles. Please submit anything for inclusion before these dates.**

The Preston Press reserves the right to edit articles and letters submitted. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors.

**For further information contact the Preston Press at [prestonpress@westnet.com.au](mailto:prestonpress@westnet.com.au) or give us a call.**

The Preston Press has a hard copy circulation of 2000 copies monthly and is available FREE for pick-up at these locations: Donnybrook Community Resource Centre, Donnybrook IGA, Donnybrook Newsagency, the Fruit Barn, DonnyBOOKS, Donnybrook and Balingup Visitor Centres, Donnybrook Library, Shire Office, Donnybrook Country Club, Mullalyup's Royal Gala Tours, Lowden Store, Donnybrook Red Cross Shop, Balingup General Store, and Donnybrook, Kirup and Balingup Post Offices. It is also available online at [www.donnybrook.crc.net.au/pp](http://www.donnybrook.crc.net.au/pp) and has a growing number of online subscribers.

ADVERTISING THAT REACHES ALL OVER THE SHIRE

**We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land the Preston Press covers, the Kaniyang and Wadandi people of the Noongar Country.**

**We give respect to their ancestors and Elders past and present, and through them, all First Nations Peoples.**

Artwork: Telicia O'Dine

## CRC Chat



**Don't forget to update your fire plan!**



**Please stay safe on the roads, and drive to the conditions.**

The Donnybrook CRC will be closed for the Christmas break, from the close of business on Friday 22 December 2023, and we re-open at 10am Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Services Australia/Centrelink services will not be available during the above week, from the CRC.

If you need to go on-line during that week please log in to the DHS free wi-fi. Services Australia phone lines will also not be available from 25-27 December inclusive.

### Upcoming Workshops Social:

- Women Leading Together - see What's On p15
- U3A Donnybrook - meets on the third Wednesday each month, see article on p19
- Donnybrook Town Team

For more information on any of the above, please contact us on 9731 2177.

### Associations:

If you are needing more information on governance, committee roles, for example, just let Graham or me know, and we will attempt to get workshops organised for these topics.

**Reminders:** we are a **Services Australia** (Centrelink Agent) and we can contact them direct on your behalf to sort a problem out, hopefully without the long wait on the phone. Our contract with Services Australia is from 2pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday. If your query is likely to take longer than 15 minutes, please book ahead so as not to be kept waiting or having to come back later. We are more than willing to work around times for you, but we do have other services we are trying to provide for our community.

**Job Board:** we offer free inclusion of job vacancies on our weekly job board. Just email me on the address below or message the CRC on facebook.

**The CRC's opening hours are Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm. Manager Sue Martin or assistant manager Graham Burns are available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm on 9731 2177.**

Email: [donnybrook@crc.net.au](mailto:donnybrook@crc.net.au)

Webpage: [www.donnybrook.crc.net.au](http://www.donnybrook.crc.net.au)

Sue Martin, Manager

### MEETING ROOM HIRE

The Donnybrook CRC has a meeting room that can be hired out at \$15/ hr or \$40/day. Community groups that are CRC members can get an even better rate.

# Childcare service impacted by staff shortages

DONNYBROOK'S Treehouse Childcare Centre is facing a crisis point as it struggles to find staff, amidst the labour and housing shortages impacting many small businesses across Australia.

Centre director Jayde Wright said the childcare sector is one of the worst hit by labour shortages.

"Like most of Australia, we are struggling to find qualified childcare educators and have little success in enticing people into a career in childcare," she said.

"Currently our centre looks after 25 to 30 children per day, and we have a waiting list of at least 30 more children.

"Treehouse Childcare Centre has the physical capacity to accept more children per day; however, due to legislated requirements, staff-to-child ratios must be maintained."

Jayde said providing childcare in a rural location added extra strain, as there were only so many childcare educators who lived, or were prepared to work, in a small country town.

"To exacerbate the situation, if staff can be found, it is near impossible for them to move to Donnybrook due to our housing shortage.

"We are working tirelessly to find new educators to join our team, and we recently encouraged 'mature age' applicants to apply for a traineeship at the centre, with amazing results."

Jayde said she was working closely with other childcare centres in the area, as well as attending meetings with local members of parliament and speaking to the media, in an attempt to come up with a long-term solution to the shortage of childcare educators.

The Treehouse Childcare Centre is Donnybrook's only long daycare centre and has been operating for 25 years, supporting the growth and development of children while enabling parents and guardians to be a part of the local workforce.

Jayde said it was no surprise that Donnybrook attracted a growing population of young families, given its great facilities and schools, its proximity to Bunbury, good employment opportunities and a wonderfully warm and safe community.

"A key requirement for families these days is access to childcare, to enable families to earn enough money to combat the ever-increasing cost of living pressures being experienced.

"Childcare is also of huge benefit to young children, as it helps them to develop key social, emotional and communication skills that will set them up for life.

"Childcare centres, also known as early childhood education and care centres, employ highly-skilled and trained early childhood teachers and educators who provide individual learning programs," she said.



*TIME TO CARE: Childcare trainees Tyra Bell (left) and Sarah Thomson, with Treehouse director Jayde Wright and young Matilda.*

The Treehouse facility is a not-for-profit, community run organisation overseen by a volunteer management committee made up of local parents, and it relies on grants and donations to upgrade and maintain the centre and its facilities.

"We currently have several projects for which we are trying to raise funds, including building a bus shelter for our community bus, purchasing new child seats and installing more anchor points in the bus, purchasing and building a children's play fort, gardening and landscaping, driveway repairs and much more," Jayde said.

"We understand the huge need for childcare in our community and the impact current shortages are having on families and businesses, with employees not being able to return to work or take on new positions due to a lack of childcare options."

Jayde said people needed to be aware of the current circumstances faced by childcare providers and that the Treehouse Childcare Centre was doing everything it could to accommodate more Donnybrook families.

## Next edition out February

THE *Preston Press* wishes our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

As we have a recess in January, our next edition will be out at the start of February 2024.

Deadline details are on page 2.

Due to rising production costs, there will be an increase in advertising rates from February 2024.

An updated schedule of advertising fees and the 2024 calendar of deadlines will be emailed to advertisers in January.

# Local cherries to star at annual auction again

AT THE Annual Cherry Auction to be held in Perth on Friday 8 December 8, a five kilo box of Sweet Cherry Valley's cherries will again be a star attraction.

Donnybrook's Sweet Cherry Valley orchard has been a contributor to the cherry auction since 2005.

Its cherries, beautifully presented in a timber box made by Donnybrook Mens Shed, are the official prize cherries of the auction, so the winning bidder each year is crowned 'cherry king or queen'.

The proceeds always go to supporting the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, and this year the auction will support the Rare Care Centre which improves awareness and early identification of children with potential diseases.

It is the 31st year of this unique auction with delicious cherries being freshly delivered from WA's South West orchards for the event.

Last year the cherry auction raised a record total of \$140,000, with the five kilo box of Sweet Cherry Valley cherries selling for \$49,000.

This year's timber box has been made from marri by Mens Shed member Phil Staniford.

It is the second box Phil has made for the auction, but the first he has made from marri timber.

"I made last year's box from jarrah, so this was different and it took a couple of weeks to make," said Phil.



**CHERRY DELIGHTS:** Phil Staniford with the marri box filled with Sweet Cherry Valley cherries ready for the annual auction. Photo: Pamela Harrison

"I am looking forward to continuing next year, and perhaps adding something different to the next box."

Marri timber has been used for the cherry box in the past, but it was the first time Phil has used this type of wood.

A plaque donated by Trophies West is placed on the lid of the box each year.

Rosetta Cusato, of Sweet Cherry Valley, thanked Phil for creating the lovely box for the cherries.

"The Donnybrook Mens Shed members do amazing work in creating the boxes," Rosetta said.

"It is always a pleasure to support a worthy cause such as the cherry auction, with the proceeds going to the Children's Hospital Foundation, and we will continue to do so for as long as we can," she said.

Over the years, the cherry boxes have been made by several members of the Mens Shed, and each has been a work of art.

The highest bidder of the cherries takes home something unique and special, in addition to some wonderful cherries.

The result of this year's cherry auction will be published in the February edition of the Preston Press in 2024.

Pamela Harrison







**14 Marmion St, Donnybrook \$415,000**

3x1 brick & tile home (tenanted) that presents a opportunity for an investment buy! Cosy kitchen/dining area that leads into the lounge, master bedroom with built in robe and complimenting the home is a reverse cycle air conditioner and a tile fire. Close to sporting amenities, schools & medical facilities.



**Lot 3729 McAlinden Rd, Bowelling \$750,000**

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM CHRIS, JODIE AND THE SUMMIT REALTY TEAM.**

Chris Cain: 0418 922 011  
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Authorised by N. Marino, Liberal Party of Australia, Units 7 & 8 cnr Victoria and Clifton Sts, Bunbury WA 6230.

# Bendigo Bank brings bonuses to big birthday bash

COMMUNITY groups within the region have more reasons to celebrate after the Donnybrook Community Bank announced a further \$20,000 of grants at its 20th birthday party held at Donnybrook's Station Square on Saturday 11 November.

Director and co-chair of Donnybrook-Capel Districts Community Financial Services Limited, Kingsley Smith, said \$1,030,000 had been injected into the two communities of Donnybrook and Capel since the community bank commenced operations in 2003.

Mr Smith also announced that the bank had made a record profit this year and he thanked customers and bank directors past and present.



**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION:** Donnybrook Community Bank staff with some of the representatives of groups who will receive a share of the birthday funding. Photo: Aleisha Jean Photography

Along with fellow bank director Angelo Logiudice and Donnybrook branch manager David Barkley, Mr Smith invited people, representing many community organisations from within the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup who were in attendance, to come forward to receive a certificate promising a share of \$20,000 of

birthday funding.

Mr Smith said the bank's friendly staff, and their dedication to their communities, was an important point of difference of a community bank.

Food trucks were on hand at the birthday party, and bank staff gave out balloons, gift bags and ice creams during the afternoon.

Sarah Hornsey



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High Tea

**Celebrating 20 years of serving the community 2003 - 2023**



**2023**

# **Carols By** *Candlelight*

**2nd December  
from 5:30 pm**

**Donnybrook Amphitheatre**



**Bunbury Band, Brookhampton Bell Ringers,  
Allegra Jazz Expressions & Diamond  
Performing Arts Academy , train ride and  
Santa visiting at 7:15 pm**



# Mumballup fire brigade celebrates 80 years

THE eighty years of service to the local community by the Mumballup-Noggerup volunteer bushfire brigade was celebrated on Sunday 29 October.

More than 60 people attended the event at the Hearle Rd fire station, where captain Garry Hatch shared some early history of the brigade, taken from a book, *Timber & Two-up*, by former resident Karen Watkins.

Four long-term members were asked to share some memories of their involvement in the brigade, with Brad Gardiner, Kelvin McKenzie, Bob Greig and Chris Fleming regaling the gathering with tales of how things used to be done 'in the old days', compared to how the brigade fights fires now.



**LONG TIES** (from left): Bev Giudici, Carol Scolari and Leonie Marshall cut the 80th celebration cake.

A cake was then cut by Bev Giudici, Carol Scolari and Leonie Marshall, who represented the three families with long ties to the brigade.

The formal proceedings concluded with fire control officer Brad Kettle



**FIRE SERVICE** (from left): Brad Kettle presents Chris Fleming, Kelvin McKenzie and Bob Greig with their 20-year service medals.

presenting the Department of Fire and Emergency's 20-year service medals, to Chris Fleming, Bob Greig and Kelvin McKenzie.

The assembled crowd enjoyed the meat and gravy rolls, prepared by Brad and Marlene.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, and we look forward to gathering again in 2043 to celebrate our centenary!

*Garry Hatch, brigade captain  
Mumballup-Noggerup BFB*

## Preparing pets for the bushfire season

DURING the fires in the Preston River valley last January, the Emergency Animal Support (in) Evacuation Western Australia (EASE WA) played an important role in supporting landowners to relocate their horses.

To help locals prepare for the 2023-2024 fire season, the Lowden Fire Brigade invited Dusty Murray, the Founder of EASE WA, to share what she has learnt from 13 years of evacuating pets and livestock across Western Australia.

At a workshop held recently, Dusty reinforced the importance of having a plan and practising it.

She said a good starting point was ensuring that pets and livestock are properly identified with a name tag or microchip, and that the stock registers for livestock are current.

The shire ranger at the meeting also highlighted doing this, as clear identification makes it possible for displaced stock and pets to find their way back to their owners.

"The best way to protect your pet is to move them to a safer area in advance, and train your pet to do what you need them to do in an emergency situation," Dusty said.

She also reinforced knowing what your personal trigger is for evacuating with your pets.

The bushfire warning updates provided by Emergency WA can help with this.

Dusty brought along a range of evacuation kits for different types of animals, which she tailors to each type of pet's needs.

Wheelie bins are recommended for bigger animals as they are easy to move and can be used to carry hay or get water.

Items placed in the bins included feed and water buckets, a halter, fly veil, first aid kit, feed scoop and hay net for the animals, and a hi-vis vest and goggles for their owners.

Lowden Fire Brigade will be offering another Bushfire Ready session on Sunday 3 December, from 10am to 11.30am at the Yabberup Hall, which will provide an opportunity for children and young people to come together with those they live with, to plan and practise their Bushfire Ready plans.

*Julieanne Hilbers  
Bushfire Ready Coordinator  
Lowden Fire Brigade*

# Applications now open

## Balingup Small Farm Field Day

Saturday April 6th 2024

9am – 3.30pm



## 'Where Nature Thrives'

This event is promising to be very popular...  
so get your application in early.

Preference will be given to businesses related to our theme



To apply – [www.balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au](http://www.balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au)

# Book records hard toil to make olive oil

STORIES of the Italian tradition of growing olives and making olive oil in the Balingup-Mullalyup area have been included in a recently released book *Olives, Oil & Toil*.

Compiled by Maggie Edmonds and launched at the annual WA Olive Awards night held in the Swan Valley on Saturday 21 October, the book records the first 25 years of the modern olive industry in WA from 1995 to 2020.

Donnybrook resident Vienna Radovic's account of her brother, Paul, designing and making an olive oil press for their father, Abbandonati Vittorio, in Mullalyup in 1941, has been included in the book.

Vienna said she initially wrote about their family's olive growing and oil making traditions for the Balingup Historical Project Group's Italian migrant exhibition held in Balingup's Packing Shed last year.

"My father, who was always known as Vittorio, came to Australia from Italy in 1927, and my mother and Paul joined him in Mullalyup in 1936," she said.

"Vittorio and Paul's invention of the amazing olive crusher and their production of olive oil enabled them to share their special homemade olive oil with friends.



**FAMILY TRADITIONS:** Vienna Radovic at the launch of 'Olives, Oil & Toil' with her sons, Dean (left) and Mark.

"Vittorio was known throughout the South West for his famous olive oil, which has held a special place in our family."

Vienna recalls that olive trees were scarce at the time, and although Vittorio had planted several olive trees on his Mullalyup property, he often went in search of extra olives to press due to the large amount of fruit needed to make oil.

"The olives must be black and ripe for oil making and I remember a long slow trip in the old truck to Picton with Vittorio and my two sisters to pick olives," she said.

"It was a hard, long, tiring day, down on our knees picking up the olives from the ground until late afternoon, packing up the fruit and then the long, slow journey home.

In *Olives, Oil & Toil*, Vienna explains the complex and slightly dangerous process of making olive oil using Paul's invention.

"As the olives were fed by hand into the mincing machine, fingers were at risk and caution had to be taken at all times," she said.

"We had many visitors to Mullalyup from near and far to taste the olive oil and to inspect our press.

"Many attempts were made to copy it, but all failed – it was never successfully copied by others."

Proceeds from the sale of *Olives, Oil & Toil* will go towards a project directed by Professor Stan Kailis to spread the word to consumers about the health benefits of olive oil, table olives and olive leaf tea.

Copies of the book *Olives, Oil & Toil* cost \$40 and can be purchased online at [www.dragonflypublishing.com.au/publishing-services-books](http://www.dragonflypublishing.com.au/publishing-services-books)

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70TH ANNIVERSARY

# DONNYBROOK APPLE FESTIVAL

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10:00 AM - LATE  
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Grand Parade

TASTE Donnybrook  
Licensed Marquee

Future Farming Tent

70th Anniversary Ball

New Sounds Youth Music Competition

Vintage Cars

Kids' Zone

Show Rides

Showbags

Buskers

Animals

# Long table dinner raises funds for Cambodia

OVER fifty people enjoyed a delicious Cambodian feast at Mr Fosters at the Balingup Packing Shed on Saturday 18 November to support rural students in Cambodia.

Organised by Wendy Trow, with help from Fran Wilshusen (and her team), Brian Foster, Vicki Neil, Marita Morgan and Janine Milton, all the proceeds of the event will go towards building a new classroom at O'Srolao school in the Battambang province of Cambodia.

Wendy said Children's Action for Development (CAD) Cambodia's programs were directed at reducing child labour, increasing education and reintegration into formal school systems and providing poor families with income generation and sustainable livelihoods.

The founder of CAD Bunrith 'Racky' Thy was in Balingup to thank the many sponsors who have supported CAD, a non-government organisation, for many years.

Wendy said Racky spent most of the day prior to the dinner preparing a traditional Khmer soup as a gesture of his thanks to the people in Balingup, and beyond, for their ongoing sponsorship of CAD Cambodia.

Wendy thanked all the generous and compassionate people who attended or assisted with the event, or bought tickets in the luxury raffle, which included prizes donated by Marian Ponds Retreat, Balingup, and the Blackwood Emporium 1864, in Mullalyup.



*GOOD FRIENDS: Racky Thy and Wendy Trow at the long table dinner at Balingup.*

## Mens Shed receive further funding for router project

ADDITIONAL funding from the Donnybrook Community Bank has enabled members of the Donnybrook Mens Shed to further enhance the use of its computer numerically controlled (CNC) router.



*HIGH TECH (from left): Community Bank manager David Barkle inspects the router with Florio Da Re, Graham Campbell and Stew Hornsey. Photo: Pamela Harrison*

Initial funding by Westpine Industries allowed the Mens Shed to acquire the router which was designed, built, programmed and tested by members and took a year to complete.

Florio De Re said more funding was needed to upgrade the components of the router, so the group applied for funds at the Donnybrook Community Bank's annual Pitch Night.

"Donnybrook Mens Shed received a donation of \$8,000 for which we thank them very much," he said. Bank manager David Barkle attended the Mens Shed on Friday 17 November, to see how the router worked.

"We are always happy to support the community and on seeing the demonstration of the router, I am very impressed with how it works," David said.

Florio said the router enables members to design and create objects using the latest technology.

"The router enables the Mens Shed to offer more inclusive activities, so if a member is unable to use one of our more traditional machines due to disability, they may be able to use this router," he said.

*Pamela Harrison*

## Unwrap the magic of Christmas

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# Donnybrook RSL remembers fallen heroes

ON REMEMBRANCE Day each year, Australia and countries all over the world, stop on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, to remember those whose lives were sacrificed in war.

This year in Donnybrook, on Saturday 11 November, a small crowd gathered at the war memorial on South Western Highway.

The thoughts of those people who attended were on the past and, perhaps, of relatives who were among those who never came home.

Many of those who did return from war had suffered physically and mentally from what they had been through, and some were never to be the same again.

Julie King and Geoff Box had placed 100 white crosses, each adorned with a red poppy, in the gardens either side of the war memorial at 5.30am, as they do each year.

The memory and acknowledgement of the animals that were sacrificed during war were also recognised by purple poppies.

President of the Donnybrook branch of the RSL, Ric Evans, welcomed and thanked all in attendance.

The Ode was read at 11am and after the first note of The Last Post was sounded, the flag was lowered to half mast.

## Lunch brings a taste of success for new committee

DONNYBROOK'S annual long table lunch attracted around 150 people who enjoyed some of the best and most enticing of the region's produce on Saturday 4 November.

The TASTE Donnybrook event, organised by the Donnybrook Food and Wine Festival, sold out in mid-October and featured wines from six local vineyards, beers from Froth Brewery in Bunbury, and cider from Runamuck Cider Company in Capel.

Market Eating House curated a special menu showcasing local produce including Merrivale Lamb, smoked salmon and small goods from Donnybrook Butchers, local marron and olive oil and, of course, Donnybrook's own apples and pears.

The lunch was described by visiting gourmands as some of the best food they had tasted in a long time.

Although the afternoon became a little warm in the Orchard 150 packing shed due to the later spring date, the music provided by the band Groove Addiction had everyone dancing well into the afternoon.

Door prizes and silent auctions led to a fun afternoon, with the proceeds helping to fund future events and build the region's reputation as a destination for great farmers, great food, and lots of fun.

New committee president Alexis Davy said the venue looked beautiful and the event went really well.

A minute's silence followed and after the Rouse, the flag was once again raised to the top of the masthead.

A poem, The Poppy, written by an unknown author, was then read by Lynda Anderson.



**RESPECTING TRADITIONS:** Cub scout leader Amanda McNab prepares the Donnybrook Scouts to sing the National Anthem. Photo: Julie King

Following the wreaths and flowers being placed at the memorial, the National Anthem was sung by eight young Scouts giving their best, and assisted by those attending the service.

Pamela Harrison



**TASTE TEAM** (from left): Sue Florido, Jeneen Hales, Sam Atkinson, Rachel Green, Katie Bishop, Alexis Davy, Vanessa Licciardello, Charlie Pizzino and Leanne Hurrelbrink. Not pictured Ricky Mandozzi and Paul Fry.

"We appreciate the support of the community in running this annual event, such as the volunteers from the Donnybrook CWA and the Donnybrook Arts and Crafts Group," she said.

Special guests included sponsors such as apple and pear producer representatives, Pomewest, Bendigo Bank and Events West, along with Jodie Hanns, the Member for Preston-Collie, and Nola Marino, the Member for Forrest, and Edith Cowan University academic and apple advocate, Dr Helen Cripps.

Sarah Hornsey

## What's on

BROOKHAMPTON HALL  
PRESENTS

# Christmas

## FAMILY SUNDOWNER

SATURDAY  
16TH DECEMBER

5.30PM ONWARDS  
BYO FOOD & DRINKS

TABLE, CHAIR & BBQ  
FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Face painting from 5.30pm  
Live music from Ruby Martella

A visit from the Jolly Man in Red will commence from 6.30pm. If you would like for your child to receive a gift, please drop a gift (to the value of \$20 or below) to Summit Realty Donnybrook before 5pm Friday 15th. Please have the gifts wrapped and clearly labelled with child's first and last name.

For more information contact  
Tom Clifford  
0488 058 864

## Battle of the Bands to be held in Balingup

THE Balingup Arts and Cultural Hub (BACH) is hosting a music program for young adults aged 13 to 25 years-old who live in Donnybrook, Balingup, Kirup, Greenbushes, Bridgetown and Boyup Brook.

This is an opportunity for local youth to build and develop their skills as aspiring musicians.

Five successful applicants will be chosen to receive a free professional development

session to workshop their original idea and then perform at the Battle of the Bands competition on Saturday 16 December.

The winner on the night will receive a day in the recording studio with local musician and producer Chris Baker. For more information, email: [info.bachub@gmail.com](mailto:info.bachub@gmail.com)



New Year's Eve

# DANCE

"COUNTRY NIGHTLIGHTERS"

Sunday 31 December 2023

Boot scooting session 7pm - 8pm  
Live music from 8pm - late

Donnybrook Memorial Hall

Entry \$10 (under 16 yo free)  
Tea, coffee, supper available

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Donnybrook & Districts Country Music Club

Enquiries: Geoff 0455 546 906 or Audrey 0458 567 183

Let's celebrate

'My Life, Our Community'

International Day of People with Disability

**4 DECEMBER 2023**

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE - THE HYGGE MOBILE ANIMAL FARM -  
INFORMATION FROM NDIS PROVIDERS AND MORE  
**PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES WELCOME**

WHEN: 11:00AM—2:00PM MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023  
WHERE: AYERS GARDEN, DONNYBROOK (IN FRONT OF THE VISITORS CENTRE)

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development [idpwd.com.au](http://idpwd.com.au) Donnybrook Community Resource Centre

Celebrating 20 years of serving the community 2003 - 2023

# What's on

**Friday 1 December** - Donnybrook Twilight Christmas Markets, from 5pm to 8pm at Ayers Garden, South Western Highway, Donnybrook. Winner of the Donnybrook Balingup Chamber of Commerce annual Christmas window display competition announced.

**Saturday 2 December** Lions Club of Donnybrook Carols by Candlelight, from 5.30pm at the Donnybrook Amphitheatre. See advert on page 6.

**Saturday 2 December** - Donnybrook & Districts Country Music Club's December dance, 7pm to 10.30pm at the Donnybrook Memorial Hall. Call Geoff on 0455 546 906 for more details.

**Monday 4 December** - International Day of People with Disability, from 11am to 2pm at Ayers Garden, Donnybrook. People of all abilities welcome. For more information, contact Donnybrook CRC on 9731 2177.

**Wednesday 6 December** - Quiet in Kirup, prayer and reflection from 9am to 3pm, Living Rosary at 12.30pm, at the Spirituality Hub, Capel St, Kirup.

**Wednesday 6 December** - Women Leading Together meetup: Spotlight on Creativity, 6pm to 8.30pm at The Salted Earth Studio, Brookhampton. To register, contact the Donnybrook CRC or South West Women's Health & Info Centre on 9791 3350.

**Friday 8 December** - Balingup Night Markets, 4pm to 7pm at The Packing Shed, Balingup.

**Saturday 9 December** - Blue Christmas, a service of lament and hope, 9.30am to 2pm at the Spirituality Hub, Capel St, Kirup. Phone Deborah on 0419 939 864 or email [deborahmrobertson@bigpond.com](mailto:deborahmrobertson@bigpond.com) for more information.

**Saturday 9 December** - Produce Swap for the exchange of kitchen and garden related goods, at 10.30am behind the Donnybrook CRC at the pergola, opp. post office. Call Rita 0450 160 347.

**Sunday 10 December** - Donnybrook & Districts Country Music Club's jam and open mike session, 1pm to 4pm, Donnybrook Memorial Hall. Call Geoff on 0455 546 906 for more details.

**Tuesday 12 December** - Foodbank mobile van from 9am to 9.30am, All Saints Anglican Church, 126 South Western Highway, Donnybrook.

**Saturday 16 December** - Donnybrook Station Markets, 9am to 1pm in Ayers Garden, near the Donnybrook Visitor Centre, on South Western Hwy.

**Saturday 16 December** - interactive Christmas play and activities, at 10am at All Saints Anglican Church, 126 South Western Highway, Donnybrook.

**Saturday 16 December** - Christmas Family Sundowner, 5.30pm onwards at the Brookhampton Hall. See advert on opposite page.

**Saturday 16 December** - Battle of the Bands hosted by BACH (Balingup Arts and Cultural Hub), 5pm to 10pm at the Balingup Town Hall. See article opposite.

**Saturday 16 December** - Christmas Party at the Donnybrook Recreation Centre, 3pm to 5pm. See advert on page 47 for details.

**Sunday 17 December** - South West Country Music Club's Christmas dance at the Australind Seniors Hall, Mardo Ave, Australind. See advert this page.

**Sunday 17 December** - Combined Churches Christmas Carols, from 7pm at the Donnybrook Catholic Church, Bentley Street.

**Tuesday 19 December** - Quiet Day Advent with Mass and lunch provided, from 9.30am at the Spirituality Hub, Capel St, Kirup. Call Deborah 0419 939 864.

**Saturday 23 December** - Produce Swap for the exchange of kitchen and garden related goods, at 10.30am behind the Donnybrook CRC at the pergola, opp. post office. Call Rita 0450 160 347.

**Sunday 31 December** - Donnybrook & Districts Country Music Club's New Year's Eve dance, 7pm til late, Donnybrook Memorial Hall. See advert opposite for more details.

## Save the date!

PUT the following dates in your calendar, and read the *Preston Press* for event details in future editions:

**Rotary Tour of the Blackwood** - Saturday 9 March.

**Donnybrook Apple Festival** - Easter Saturday 30 March.

**Balingup Small Farm Field Day** - Saturday 6 April.

Event organisers of one-off annual events being held within the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup are invited to email their 'Save the date!' details to: [prestonpress@westnet.com.au](mailto:prestonpress@westnet.com.au)



**The South West Country  
Music Club**

**DECEMBER DANCE**

**Australind Seniors Hall, Mardo Avenue**

**Sunday 17 December**

**Christmas Dance**

**1pm to 4.30pm**

**with music provided by**

**MIDWAY**

Everyone most welcome, afternoon teas available  
members \$10, visitors \$15

**Enquiries: Sue 0467 070 248 or Vienna: 0417 961 456**

# Preston Valley Arts Trail continues to draw crowds

IN ITS sixth consecutive year, the Preston Valley Artisan Trail continued to build on its previous successes when held over the weekend of Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 November.

Two new locations, Karrabilli Retreat, in Morrissey Road in Yabberup, and Jackson's Track, on the Boyup Brook Road in Queenswood, were both popular venues with an array of arts and crafts on display.

The Fine Timber Company in Charley Creek (pictured top right) again hosted the Donnybrook Mens Shed and several other artisans, including Kerry Burns (pictured bottom right) who had a range of colourful lino prints for sale.

Many visitors took the opportunity to have a scenic helicopter ride over the Preston Valley and across to Wellington Dam, which was based at the Fine Timber Company.

Yabberup Hall was busy with the Preston Valley photographic competition display, arts and crafts stalls, plus hamburgers and a sausage sizzle.

Two of the valley's wineries, Thomson Brook Estate and Mandalay Road Wines, also hosted several artisans and had live music playing throughout the weekend.

*Photos: William Dickie*



MERRY  
*Christmas*

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our clients for choosing to list and manage with us over the past year. We are wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season, may you enjoy it with the ones you love and stay safe on the roads if travelling. We are looking forward to seeing you in the New Year and cannot wait to see what 2024 brings.

FROM THE WHOLE TEAM AT

**Harcourts** Heartland



**(08) 9761 1566**

126 Hampton Street, Bridgetown

3-5/94 South Western Highway, Donnybrook

Unit 1, 46 Warren Road, Nannup

[admin@harcourtsheartland.com.au](mailto:admin@harcourtsheartland.com.au)

*Celebrating 20 years of serving the community 2003 - 2023*

## Seniors Week workshops prove popular

SEVERAL free workshops organised by the Donnybrook Community Resource Centre (CRC) during WA Seniors Week, held from 12 to 19 November, provided a range of information for older members of the community.

CRC manager Sue Martin said the variety of topics, from care planning and end of life decision-making through to help with technology and how to avoid scams, were well-attended.

"I thank Dr Wietske van der Velden Schuijling, Dawn Tan and Courtney Wheatcroft for sharing their expertise at these Seniors Week activities," Sue said.

In addition to the workshops held at the CRC during Seniors Week, Sue provided 'one on one' technology help for seniors in the use of smart phones, tablets and computers.

WA Seniors Week is an annual event that encourages people of all ages to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of older people to Western Australian and to encourage the active participation of seniors in community life.

The running of these workshops, including a Seniors Week afternoon tea, was supported by Lotterywest and the Western Australian Council on the Ageing, an organisation focused on valuing the contribution and lived experience of older people and advancing their rights, needs and interests.



*AFTERNOON TREAT: Enjoying the Seniors Week afternoon tea provided by Donnybrook CRC are (standing from left) CRC manager Sue Martin, Dorothy Gutteridge, Bruce Dye, Amy Fang Yang, Kay Bond, Judith Childs, (seated) Natalie Sutton and Barry Retallack.*



### Donnybrook Medical Services



**All the staff at Donnybrook Medical Services would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe & Happy New Year**



**PH: 9731 1440**

**41 Bentley Street Donnybrook**

visit: [www.donnybrookmedicalsolutions.com.au](http://www.donnybrookmedicalsolutions.com.au)

*"servicing the community for 40 years"*



**Celebrating 20 years of serving the community 2003 - 2023**

# Donnybrook Family Doctor

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Conveniently located in main street of Donnybrook

Close to the Pharmacy

Convenient Parking

Iron Infusions & Venesections

Skin Cancer Clinic

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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

7am - 6pm

Thursday, 8am - 5pm

Saturday, 8am - 1pm

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Saturdays

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92 South Western Highway, Donnybrook WA 6239

Email: [info@dfdctors.com.au](mailto:info@dfdctors.com.au)

Website: [www.donnybrookfamilydoctors.com](http://www.donnybrookfamilydoctors.com)

## BULK BILLING



# U3A members learn to read the night sky

AT THE November meeting of the Donnybrook U3A (University of the Third Age) members were treated to a lesson on reading the night sky.

Friday 17 November turned out to be the perfect night for stargazing, with a group of members gathering on the oval at St Mary's Primary School, Donnybrook.

Scott Pickering and Tracy Humphreys, both of Donnybrook, were brimming with enthusiasm and knowledge about their astronomic hobby.

We were introduced to the different types of telescopes and the different functions of each.

Although we could see the waxing moon with the naked eye, by observing through the telescope we could see the shaded areas of the moon and all its craters.

November is one of the few times you can see both Orion and Scorpio together in the early evening, so we were able to see Orion slowly rise from the east as Scorpio lowered to the west.

At this time of year, the Southern Cross is very low on the horizon so we were unable to see it through the trees, but Jupiter and Saturn were clearly visible.

Our amateur astronomers also pointed out the milky way that, through the telescope was a mass of tiny stars, and all the different signs of the zodiac - it was absolutely fascinating!

Several satellites were seen shooting through the sky and we also learnt that there are two fully operational space stations in orbit: the international space station and the Chinese space station 'Tiangong'.

We all walked away from our experience thirsting for more and admiring Scott's and Tracy's enthusiasm.

U3A will not be having another guest speaker until February, but we will hopefully meet in January for a meal. This year we have been so lucky to have such a diverse range of topics, with people giving up their time to join us.

Hopefully next year we will have just as many. For more details about our U3A activities, please contact me on 0448 169 785.

Maddie Smith, Donnybrook U3A



*STARRY NIGHT: Scott Pickering (centre) shows Maddie Smith how to use a telescope to read the night sky. Photo: Scott Pickering*

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**We are open from 6am to 6pm, Monday to Friday  
Sandhills Road, Donnybrook**



# Who are Alan Walker and Philippa Ahrens? BY SARAH HORNSEY

## Introducing a devoted couple with an adventurous past

---

FAMED 19th century writer and liberal thinker, Ralph Waldo Emerson said “people destined to meet will do so, apparently by chance, at precisely the right moment” and this seems to be the case for Alan Walker and Philippa Ahrens.

The pair met some 34 years ago when Alan sailed into Port Douglas and asked around for work.

He was told to speak to ‘the boss’ who turned out to be Philippa, a civil engineer, registered builder and architect who was running a group of motel units that she had built there.

She did not have any work for him, but they hit it off immediately as she was also a keen sailor.

“We just clicked,” said Alan, and it seemed that all the stars aligned as Alan’s birthday is July 27, Philippa’s is July 28 and they met on July 29.

They have been together ever since.

Even so, they are strong and independent individuals and each had their own interesting back story, of course. Philippa came from England when she was three years-old with her parents and older sister, when her father set up a GP practice in Melbourne.

The family paid their way to Australia, father arriving by ship first. Then Philippa, her sister and mother travelled by flying boat, a popular mode of transport in the inter-war period, because they could land on water instead of expensive land-based runways.

Philippa was educated in Melbourne and then attended Melbourne University to complete a degree in civil engineering, which was an unusual profession for a woman in those days

During the next decade or so, she lived in Germany, learnt to speak the language and married a German man.

Her son, David, was born in Germany and younger daughter, Heidi, was born on their return to Melbourne.

When the marriage ended, Philippa built and ran a set of motel units in Port Douglas.

Alan was born at King Edward Hospital in Perth.

His maternal grandmother was from England and his grandfather took up a parcel of land in Cowaramup, under the soldier settlement scheme just after the First World War.

His father’s family came from the Ballarat region and settled in the goldfields around Kalgoorlie.

Alan was one of five kids, and due to his father suffering with post-war trauma and alcohol abuse, the eldest three children were sent to children’s homes in the 1960s.

Alan lived for a time at Benmore Presbyterian Children’s Home in Caversham, a working dairy farm, until he was 13.

He remembers being freezing in the winter and always having bare feet except to go to church on Sunday - and the peculiar joy of stepping in a fresh cow pat to warm the feet on those icy days.

Later he got a job with a butcher, who paid him five pounds a year and deducted three pounds for board.

He learned valuable butchery skills in this job, starting when he accompanied the butcher out to the farm to slaughter the cattle, and he learnt to use every part of the animal, down to feeding the remnants to the pigs.

Following advice from a neighbour, he soon travelled up north to work as a roustabout with the big shearing teams.

He was a single man and had no-one waiting for him back home, but he now contemplates, with a shake of his head, the married men who were away from home from mid-January to mid-December each year, leaving their wives and families behind.

Alan also worked at sea on cray fishing boats in the northern waters.

In time, he got married and three children followed, his sons Alan and Clint and a daughter, Kim.

Back in Perth, he completed a bricklaying course at Midland Brick, then worked as a bricklayer for the next 30-odd years, building his own home at Quindalup over 15 years of weekends, and often travelling to remote locations such as New Caledonia and New Guinea building brick furnaces to earn an income.

Inspired by the travels of Dutch-Australian adventurer and film maker, Alby Mangles, Alan and family bought a boat in Queensland and set off on a sailing adventure.

After this odyssey, he and his wife separated. Then he sailed into Port Douglas, where he met Philippa.

Around 1972 Alan and a mate had started a bagpipe band in Busselton.

In fact, he recalls being a member of the Busselton Pipe Band when they led the Apple Festival floats down the main street of Donnybrook around this time.

At the Sheridan Hotel in Port Douglas, he played the bagpipes for 400 Japanese visitors on New Year’s Eve and recalls causing a stir in the remote islands of New Guinea by playing the bagpipes at sunset.

The inquisitive locals took to their canoes to investigate this curious caterwauling.

On another occasion, he was asked to pipe in the haggis for a Scottish celebration in the highlands – but this was the highlands of New Guinea!

“I have had so much fun with the bagpipes all over the world,” he said.

*Continued next page*

# Who are Alan Walker and Philippa Ahrens?

*Continued from previous page*

Two years after they met, Alan, Philippa and her nine-year-old daughter, Heidi, set off to circumnavigate the world.

The 16-year sea journey, which took in more than 62 countries and involved adventures and danger on the high seas, was extraordinary but, when one meets Alan and Philippa, it is not difficult to imagine this resourceful and resilient couple choosing 'the road less travelled'.

Philippa meticulously kept a daily diary and has since written a 600-page book which chronicles their remarkable ocean voyages.

With open hearts and minds, they sailed into unfamiliar territory, thinking on their feet and learning with every passing day, and responding to unfamiliar opportunities, challenges and new experiences as best they could.

They became involved in the local scene, were willing to do whatever was needed, and found that by engaging with and working among the locals, they were accepted and invited to participate in many community events that normally would not have been shared with them.

They met good and bad people from every culture. "These are experiences that broaden your horizons," Alan said.

"So often people don't step outside of their community. They are blinkered, and yet they form strong opinions about what is going on, in another part of the world.

"They become intolerant and, sometimes, they are just wrong," he said.

Alan and Philippa met many generous souls who helped them and invited them into their homes, and they also saw drug and people smuggling operations. They were caught in a Category 5 hurricane and there were times when they were cheated and even captured by pirates.

"We knew we were going to encounter trouble somewhere along the way, because we'd stick our noses into all the little docks and interesting places, but that's where the adventure lies," Alan said.

"You just have to take it as it comes," Philippa added.

"Was it difficult to be in the confined space of the boat for so long?" I asked.

"Confined? What do you mean?" asked Philippa.

"There's the whole ocean!" she said.

"And think of the changing views every day," Alan added.

After their years at sea, Alan and Philippa returned to Cairns.

They put the boat on the market and spent around three years painstakingly building their own home in Queensland's picturesque Tin Can Bay.



*PAIR OF ADVENTURERS: Alan Walker and Philippa Ahrens. Photo: Pamela Harrison*

However, with some of their five children and twelve grandchildren now settled in the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, they later bought five acres at Kirup and again set to building a large home using mainly reclaimed materials as they came upon them over about four years.

Then they downsized to a small house in Donnybrook, with just what they need, and they have lived there for just over two years.

Around this time, Philippa's health began to deteriorate and the couple's latest stage of life represents the next challenge for this irrepressible and devoted couple.

Alan said that Philippa has been a beautiful partner – loyal, with a lovely nature.

"I just love her to bits," he said.

Then he talks about how she outperformed him in the man-overboard manoeuvre during their skipper's ticket exam before they left Port Douglas, and he tells me that their first frightening encounter with pirates was only three months into their journey.

"Philippa barely flinched or batted an eyelid," he said with admiration.

"Well, you have just got to get on with it - what else are you going to do?" Philippa says, brushing it off with her typical pragmatism.

"I'm just glad we survived," Alan said, "we have had a certain amount of luck, that's for sure."

Writer and thinker Ralph Emerson Palmer also said "our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail".

This adventurous couple is courageous and supportive partners in life, who may not know what lies around the next bend, or over the next wave, but who have learned to take a practical approach and deal with whatever challenges come along as best they can.

"No regrets," said Alan. "None."



### Brookhampton 478 Sandhills Road

4 2 2

#### LIVING THE COUNTRY DREAM

This 17.5\* acre property has been lovingly planned and maintained. Featuring four bedrooms, two bathrooms, open plan living, r/c a/c, fireplace, fan. Main bedroom with ensuite. 3kw solar panels, solar hot water system with gas booster, two door garage, 9m x 6m\* shed with power, 21m x 7m\* machinery/hay shed with power, stables with three bays and drive through float access, horse yard, tack room 6m x 13m\* shed with power, fans, 2m x 3m x 3m\* wood and ancillary sheds with power, four main paddocks, electric fences, two rainwater tanks 96,000L\*, dam, bore, aviary / dog run, reticulated garden, vegetable garden & stock yards.



\*Approximately

**Offers Over  
\$1,290,000**

Angela Murphy 0438 310 315



### Thomson Brook 443 Thomson Brook Road

3 2 2

#### VIEWS, WINTER CREEK AND WATER!

This 25.7\* hectare property boasts a solid and spacious built three bedroom, two bathroom home. Features include open plan living, large lounge with wood fire, spacious kitchen, wrap around verandahs, powered shed, dam, rainwater tanks, various fruit trees together with ornamental trees, 400 freshly planted natives and some olive trees. A brand new small Tiny House – (20ft Tiny House – Oasis My Little House), is currently placed on the property for completion by buyers. Only 16km\* from Donnybrook Town Centre.



\*Approximately

**Offers Over  
\$999,000**

Angela Murphy 0438 310 315



### Lowden 2774 Ferguson Road

3 1 2

#### WELCOME TO YOUR TRANQUIL OASIS!

Nestled away in complete seclusion and sitting on just shy of 9\* acres, a world of airy elegance within this Hardi plank and tin three bedroom, one bathroom home awaits. Featuring a study/nursery, open plan design with tile fire in the main room, kitchen with gas cooktop, electric oven, master bedroom with four floor to ceiling wardrobes, second bedroom with double sliding full length robes. Vast gabled patio boasts an elevated deck offers breathtaking views of the lush garden, dam and valley. 15m x 8m\* powered shed with a separate insulated room. 12 Solar panels, gas hot water system, three 90,000L\* water tanks.



\*Approximately

**\$739,000**

Susan Kouw 0438 300 980



### Argyle 12 Howlett Ramble

4 2 2

#### YOUR DREAM HORSE PROPERTY AWAITS!

This four bedroom, two bathroom Summit built brick and iron home sits on just over 5\* acres of pristine land. Property features immaculate interiors with double wardrobes in every bedroom, newly renovated bathrooms. Newly renovated kitchen, open plan living with near new Canadian wood fire, r/c a/c, tile flooring. Outside features a large gabled patio with aggregate concrete flooring, large fire pit, 20m x 12m\* shed with mezzanine floor and pot belly stove. A lean-to sheds horse float or truck. Bore fed water reticulation to five paddocks with excellent gates, multiple water tanks of 140,000L\*, 5,000L\* and 27,000L\*.



\*Approximately

**\$950,000**

Susan Kouw 0438 300 980

# Melbourne Cup provides fun for social club

MELBOURNE Cup Day was celebrated by the Donnybrook Social Club this year with a lunch held at my home, with a good selection of food provided by the members who attended.

With the horses drawn we settled down to watch the race, and amazingly, Priscilla had first and second places and Graham had third and fourth. The rest of us didn't get a look-in!

Lunch was then enjoyed out on the patio, and some members stayed on to play cards as Tuesday is our usual cards and games day at the Seniors Room at the Donnybrook Library.

On Friday 24 November we are having our Christmas meal at the Back Beach cafe in Bunbury, followed by a visit to the Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre on Arthur Street.

There we will hear about Bunburys' early days and its growth over the years, as well as other interesting items to view and read about.

If you play, or would like to learn to play, cards or other games please come along to visit us at the library.

We meet from about 1.15pm on Tuesdays to play cards or games and end the afternoon with a cuppa and a chat.



**OUT AND ABOUT:** The Donnybrook Social Club members enjoy the gardens at Stirling Cottage in Harvey on a recent outing.

For further information about our club, contact me on 0416 532 737 or email: [detling0244@gmail.com](mailto:detling0244@gmail.com)

Sue Blythe



## Treehouse Childcare Centre

We have limited places available.

Treehouse is a community based, not for profit organisation.

Please contact us on 9731 0342 or email: [director@treehousechildcarecentre.com](mailto:director@treehousechildcarecentre.com)

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**Celebrating 20 years of serving the community 2003 - 2023**



# The Shire Connect

*You can find the latest news and updates from the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup right here!*

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup has returned to a fully elected Council as at the end of October 2023. Since then, the November Ordinary Council Meeting has been held (22 November 2023), and the next one is scheduled for 13 December 2023.



Shire President Vivienne MacCarthy has said the following:

*I am incredibly grateful for the genuine acceptance and congratulatory messages our community members have expressed towards our newly elected Council. As we take up our roles, we are constantly learning about our responsibilities and identifying our combined strengths. Discussing these strengths in depth has allowed us to recognize the best possible skillsets that align to the nine (9) Committees that support our local and regional strategies. As we continue forward, we will continue to learn as we embark on a number of mandatory training modules, both online and in person.*

*Our new interim CEO, Dr Garry Hunt PSM, has been a valuable source of experience and knowledge. The Council is looking forward to sharing his resourcefulness as we walk through the process of recruiting a new CEO in the new year.*

*There are a huge variety of community events and initiatives taking place within the Shire throughout December, including the Christmas Twilight Markets, groups performing carols, the People with Disabilities Fun Day, and more. On behalf of the newly elected Council, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period, and hope that you all enjoy your festivities with friends and family.*

Additionally, the Shire has welcomed its new interim Chief Executive Officer, Dr Garry Hunt PSM, to the office. As stated in a media release shared by the Shire in October, Mr Hunt brings with him an extensive career spanning over 45 years in the local government sector, including 30 plus years as a CEO. Dr Garry Hunt PSM has said the following:

*My first two weeks have been focused on acquainting myself with the Council members and staff at the Shire. I have enjoyed early morning explorations of the township areas of Donnybrook and Balingup, and have thoroughly enjoyed viewing the landscapes in many special areas.*

*The first Council meeting resulted in appointments to Council, External Committees, and groups. In October (immediately after the 2023 Local Government Elections) a full-day induction program was conducted to inform the new Councillors on their roles and responsibilities.*

*Over the next month, the Council will determine some of its priorities for both the short and medium term. Additionally, I will be working with the Council to recruit a permanent Chief Executive Officer.*

The Shire wishes you a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy new year. We are closed from 12:00pm on Friday 22 December 2023, and will reopen as normal at 8:30am on Tuesday 2 January, 2024.



Save these dates in your calendar to join us at the Council Chamber, or tune in online:

**Agenda Briefing Session:**

Wednesday 6 December @ 5:00pm

**Ordinary Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 13 December @ 5:00pm

Councillors following the Special Council Meeting held on 26 October 2023, swearing them in. From left to right, starting top row: Cr. Anne Mitchell, Cr. Peter Gubler, Cr. Anita Lindemann, Cr. Deanna Shand, Cr. Patrick Grant, Cr. Alexis Davy, President Vivienne MacCarthy, Deputy President Lisa Glover, and Cr. John Bailey.

## ADVICE OF SHIRE WORKS: December 2023

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup wishes to advise that the following works are scheduled for November, 2023. Please ensure that you follow all directional road signage as required, and drive safely in the wetter conditions.

### JAYES ROAD (continuing into December)

Reconditioning of shoulders and drains. Road widening and full reseal along Jayes Road from Walter St intersection to Mauger Rd intersection. Works will continue into December '23.

### CUNDINUP KIRUP ROAD (continuing into December)

Reconditioning of shoulders and drains. Road widening and installation of edge lines along Cundinup Kirup Rd from near Dorant Rd to Mailman Rd intersection. Works will be continuing into December '23 and January '24.

### UPPER CAPEL ROAD BRIDGE

Replacement of Bridge 3275 on Upper Capel Road began as proposed in November '23. Demolition of existing single lane timber bridge plus the construction of a new dual lane concrete bridge, with roadworks, are included in the proposed works. Road closures will be in place at the Upper Capel Rd Bridge for a period of up to six (6) months. You can view the full notice for more information, as well as the detour plans, on the Shire's website.

### GRIMWADE-GREENBUSHES ROAD

Upgrade works to make a section of Grimwade-Greenbushes Rd to a sealed standard. Works are anticipated to begin in December '23 and continue to February '24.

### DONNYBROOK TOWNSITE

Installation of Christmas lights and banners taking place, scheduled to be completed by early December '23.

Standard operation hours take place from 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday. Works will be clearly signed and you are requested to exercise due care when travelling near or through these areas. Delays are expected to be minimal.



Should you require further information, please contact the Shire Works and Services Department on (08) 9780 4200. For more information, scan this QR code or visit the Shire's website via [www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au](http://www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au)

## CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs):

Audit & Risk Management Committee,  
external independent members.

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup is inviting applications from suitably qualified persons to join its Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) as external independent members.

The ARMC is a committee of Council that focuses on the effectiveness of the Shire's systems, processes, risk management and compliance with legal and financial obligations.

The committee consists of three (3) Councillors plus two (2) external independent members. The Shire is seeking two (2) external independent members. External members of the committee should have business and financial management, governance, and/or risk management experience.

The term is generally in line with the biannual local government elections, the next of which will be held in October 2025. The ARMC meets four (4) times per year.

**All applications are to be submitted by close of business on Friday, 15 December 2023.**

Please submit all enquiries applications through one of the following:

**Online:** Contact Us form

**Via email:** [shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au)

**Written/post:** ATTN: Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup  
PO Box 94, Donnybrook WA 6239

1 November to 14 December every year is the Restricted Burning Period - are your Fire Breaks compliant? During this period, you are not permitted to burn without a Fire Permit during this period. You can discuss obtaining a permit with your local Fire Control Officer, who will be listed in the Fire Break Order your received with your rates notice. Alternatively, you can view the notice on the Shire website. Following this period, as of December 15 2023 and until 31 March 2024, we will be in the **PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD**. During this time, lighting a fire is prohibited, and also prohibited on any day where the Fire Danger Forecast is High or above, or if a Total Fire Ban has been declared. As these dates are subject to change, please check with the Shire prior to lighting any fires.

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Rangers commence annual property inspections on the 1 December to ensure they comply with Council's Fire Break Order. Learn more online via the Shire website, stay up to date on the latest alerts with Emergency WA via [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au), or visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website via [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au).

**Are you bushfire ready? Keep your family safe this holiday season.**



Follow us @shireofdonnybrookbalingup



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[www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au](http://www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au)

PO Box 94, Donnybrook, 6239



## TALISON – SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

### Craig's Corner - *With Craig Dawson*

As we bid farewell to another year, 2023 has been marked by significant milestones at the Greenbushes Lithium Operation (**Mine**).

*Highlights include:*

- we commenced construction on Chemical Grade Plant #3 (**CGP3**);
- we released Talison's inaugural Sustainability Report;
- we are on track to achieve a new production record for the Mine of approximately 1.5 million tonnes of spodumene concentrate;
- we are on track to achieve a new material movement for the Mine in excess of eight (**8**) million bank cubic metres (**bcm**);
- we commenced a detailed feasibility study (**DFS**) into the potential recommissioning of the Greenbushes to Bunbury Rail line in partnership with the State Government;
- we commissioned a new Temporary Accommodation Camp;
- we commenced construction of a Permanent Accommodation Village;
- we completed construction of a new Mine Services Area (**MSA**); and
- we continued to expand the mining operations with the commencement of new mine services contractor (**Macmahons**).

Additionally, we proudly unveiled our new Community Investment Program (**CIP**). The CIP provides substantial funding for strategic programs that aim to boost social capital and stronger communities. This involves collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, such as not-for-profit community groups, local government and education/training providers.

In the first tranche of CIP funding announced during the year, Talison was proud to allocate \$3 million funding for the Donnybrook VC Mitchell Park project, which promises to rejuvenate sport and recreation facilities, delivering social, health and economic benefits to the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup and the broader Southwest region.

Talison also provided \$29,826 in sponsorship and donations to local Donnybrook Balingup community groups, coupled with \$9,000 in scholarships to schools within the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.

As December unfolds, we will see the successful completion of the one-year traineeship program for our 2023 Trainees and welcome the 2024 Trainees and Apprentices. It has been great to follow the growth and development of our 2023 Trainees, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact our 2024 Trainees will make at the Mine.

Talison is committed to creating a sustainable workplace that benefits both its employees and surrounding communities. Talison recognises the high demand for workers in the region and is committed to minimising the impact of its operations on key areas such as accommodation and hospitality. We are actively trying to find the balance between hiring locally and preserving the liveability of local communities and are focused on finding innovative solutions to address the shortage of accommodation and attract the best talent to our workforce.

This is why, in 2024 Talison will begin to transition towards a dual residential/drive-in-drive-out (DIDO) workforce to attract the right talent whilst also striving to preserve the unique character and liveability of local communities. I look forward to providing you with updates on this transition in the new year.

Lastly the work we do each day at the Mine is helping create a better tomorrow by supplying the lithium needed for the global transition to cleaner energy. I'd like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank those spending the holiday period working at the Mine. Wishing all our employees, contractors, and community partners a safe and prosperous New Year.

TALISONLITHIUM.COM





## Leading in Lithium & investing in our community

In 2023  
we've  
donated

**\$5,950,000 +**

In-kind  
contribution

**\$198,950**

### 2023 impact snapshot

**82+**

Community events  
and organisations  
supported

**5**

Across 5 local  
government shires

**2114+**

Community employee hours  
spent assisting and engaging  
with the community



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# Your letters

## Best wishes to new councillors

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the 'Election Concern' letter to the editor published in the September issue of the Preston Press.

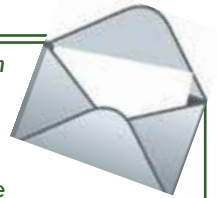
I will never accept that the five councillors resigned their positions due to alleged bullying - there was no bullying from fellow councillors.

We now have a new group of councillors duly elected by the ratepayers and I wish them all the

The Preston Press welcomes letters from readers, but reserves the right to edit them for clarity, length and legal reasons.

The views expressed in letters are those of the individual contributors and not the Preston Press.

Email letters to: [prestonpress@westnet.com.au](mailto:prestonpress@westnet.com.au)



best in their deliberations and communications with the ratepayers.

All the best to our new Shire President – Viv MacCarthy.

I thank the ratepayers for allowing me to represent them for 14 months.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the strength and professional conduct of Cr Lisa Glover, Cr Peter Gubler and former councillor Fred Mills during those torrid years of 2021-2022 and the affronting issues being beyond their control and certainly not instigated by the same.

The five councillors who resigned their positions must answer to themselves for this decision.

Such action was not required, had a councillor group discussion been called and held by the then President.

Who knows what the decision to resign has cost the ratepayers of the Shire?

Phil Jones, Donnybrook

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# Jodie Hanns

Member for Collie-Preston

## DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Authorised by J Hanns, 76 Forrest Street, Collie WA 6225

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 **@harcourtsheartland** **Unit 1, 46 Warren Road, Nannup**

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## Enjoy simple pleasures

WE DO lots of tasks and chores every day without thinking about them.

Often we look at tasks like driving the kids to school, making a coffee, preparing a meal, and walking the dog, as nothing more than jobs we have to do.

Adding all these moments up, they make a big part of our day.

What if you stop and think about these chores and tune in to your senses?

Smell the coffee you are making (or waiting for it to be made), and look at the green around you when driving to your next destination. Listen to the sound of the engine, the feel of the vehicle when turning.

Bringing your attention to the positive aspects of these activities can add a lot of joy to your day.

Given that we do so many jobs every day, there is a lot of potential to improve your day.

Bringing your mind to the current moment also improves stress levels and anxiety.

Mindful eating is another example - be aware of the texture, the different tastes, and how it breaks down.

Or even look at your food and take in the different colours or complexity of the different shapes.

Mindful eating can also assist with weight loss, as slowing down your eating will increase pleasure and improves the sensation of satiety.



*TIME TO UNCLUTTER: There are many simple ways to be more more mindful. Source: unknown*

Overeating feels uncomfortable and mindful eating could prevent overeating by creating an awareness of how full you are.

What do you see when you walk? Is your mind full of stuff and to-dos or can you see the beauty of the day.

Do you see any other people? If you look them in the eye and smile. How does that affect you? There is so much around you to see, but can you see it?

I can highly recommend trying this out and experience how it feels. If you struggle to see any positives, please seek professional help, as you may suffer from a mental health disorder.



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## Country aspects delight garden group

MEMBERS of the Donnybrook Garden Group visited the country garden of Jonine and Kim in Queenwood in November.

This property on the Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Road is awesome - it is neat and tidy, and colourful.

On arrival we all scattered off on our own adventures, smelling and discussing varieties of plants.

The sound of the waterfall in the background was very relaxing, which complemented the rusty farm machinery on display in the garden.

The shearing shed has been cleverly redesigned with all the fixtures and it is whimsical to the last detail. Dawn was our very energetic hostess, who made sure we were all very satisfied.

I am resigning as president of this group and Sharlene has volunteered to take my place. Sharlene can be contacted via email on [semoore2572@gmail.com](mailto:semoore2572@gmail.com)

I have really enjoyed the group after all the years of running it, seeing people mix and become close made my heart sing.

It is with a really heavy heart that we are selling our house, and then I will follow my husband to Perth to the Vines in the Swan Valley.



**GARDEN ART:** One of the creative displays in the Queenwood garden known as Jackson's Track.

I have loved Donnybrook so, so much for the last ten years. Thank you to all the wonderful people I have met in this time - you are all amazing.

Visitors are always welcome to join our garden group - there are no fees. Contact me for more details on 0400 747 097 or Sharlene on email as listed above.

*Wilhelmina McIvor, President*



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## Green corridors essential for wildlife survival

AUSTRALIANS love building fences.

We have the longest fences in the world.

In Western Australia, we have 3,300 kilometres of the "rabbit-proof fence", and there is 5,600 kilometres of the "dingo fence" in south-eastern Australia.

We build them around our houses, industrial complexes, mining sites, paddocks and anywhere we want to keep anything in or out.

Australians also love building roads.

There always seems to be a sound and logical reason to build another road or widen the ones we have.

And then there is the wildlife.

How does the introduction of these two formidable obstacles impact on their survival?

Barriers such as fences and roads cause disruption in the natural movement of many species to and from their traditional spaces.

No longer the open picket fence, swampy land or endless treetop canopies providing access to water sources, food supplies and nesting grounds for our water birds, marsupials, reptiles and amphibians.

We don't have to drive far to see the fauna collision

fatalities of an ever-increasing number of vehicles on our expanding road system.

Human activities on the environment constantly challenge the human-wildlife interaction balance and adds continuing weight to the importance of green corridors and habitat connectivity to protect our valuable natural assets.

Green corridors are connectors of habitat that have been isolated or fragmented because of human activities or structures.

These corridors prevent in-breeding, which can lead to local extinctions, by aiding genetic diversity, and they contribute to population renewal following bushfire, allow natural migrations and provide food resources by maintaining flora biodiversity.

One important green corridor opportunity is our roadside verge reserve, especially in regional areas. Australian road verges are often overlooked for their value, so tend to be cleared and burned allowing invasive weeds to establish.

However, they are responsible for maintaining up to fifty per cent of our wildflower species and endangered flora and provide that important linkage to larger areas of vegetation, so protection not removal, is needed.

Railway reserves, sporting grounds, golf courses and local reserves, creek lines and rivers are more possibilities for creating green corridors, as are our backyards.

We only have to use Google to get a birdseye view of the gaping holes in our vegetation connectivity.

So, this festive holiday season take some time out to think of ways you can create a wildlife corridor in your space and enrich your life with nature. Merry Christmas everyone.

*Patti Bolt*



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### Community vital to Preston River foreshore success

THE Leschenault Catchment Council's (LCC) Preston River Revegetation Foreshore Program has emerged as a shining example of community-driven conservation.

The project, now in its third year, has focused on fostering community involvement, managing invasive species, and creating habitat for native wildlife along the Preston River foreshore, in Donnybrook.

Community works kicked off in May this year with a busy bee, preparing the groundwork for what would become a series of successful events throughout the year.

Over 2,000 seedlings were planted this year alone, with four community planting days, including two with eager students from Donnybrook District High School and Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School.

In October, the community came together for a bat box building workshop and night walk.

The workshop not only resulted in the creation of bat boxes to be installed along the river, but also deepened participants' connection with the local wildlife, as they witnessed the wide variety of fauna that call the foreshore home.

A big thank to the Donnybrook Lions Club for fueling the hard work of our volunteers at all of our events this year with delicious sausage sizzles.

The Lions Club has been a massive supporter of the conservation efforts along the Preston River and continue to provide support to the project, including funding three possum drey building workshops to be held next year.

We would like to thank the members of the Donnybrook Football Club (DFC), whose dedication saw them augering holes prior to planting with equipment generously provided by Bangadang Farm.

Thanks also to Bill and Neville from DFC for engaging with the Thomson Brook Volunteer Fire Brigade to assist in watering the seedlings over summer.

#### What's Next?

The commitment to the foreshore revegetation does not end with planting.



**FORESHORE WORKS:** Members of the Leschenault Catchment Council's Danju team (from left) Travis, Pete and Shannon assist with Preston River rehabilitation. Photo: LLC

The LCC's Danju team and the Thomson Brook Volunteer Fire Brigade will play a crucial role in post-planting care, diligently mulching the seedlings and implementing watering sessions over summer to ensure their survival.

If you have noticed some bare areas along the foreshore, these are sites which are under active weed management aiming to reduce the significant

invasion of watsonia (*Watsonia bulbilifera*) and giant reed (*Arundo donax*) along the riverbank.

Works will continue over the next few years to ensure that the planned revegetation in these areas will have the best chance of survival.

Whilst these works are being undertaken, we ask that you please keep to the designated tracks to avoid risk of personal injury and reduce the risk of damaging the riverbanks.

There is plenty more planned for the foreshore in 2024 including community plantings and exciting workshops. Be sure to sign up to the LCC mailing list at <https://www.leschenaultcc.org.au/contact> so you don't miss out.

Once again, we thank all our volunteers and supporters that have enabled the Preston River Foreshore Revitalisation program to continue to grow from strength to strength, in particular: the WA Government's NRM Program, the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, the Donnybrook Lions Club, Talison Lithium Ltd, the Donnybrook Football Club, the Leschenault Biosecurity Group Inc, Donnybrook Butchers, Café Tiffany's, traditional custodians, the Donnybrook Scout Group, the Preston Press, the Bunbury Regional Prison's Pre-Release Unit, Bangadang Farm, Donnybrook Fresh IGA, Donnybrook-Balingup Community Radio, the Lowden and Thomson Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, Donnybrook District High School, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, and the many individuals that have selflessly volunteered their time and expertise.

What a fantastic community we have in Donnybrook, and we look forward to continuing this wonderful project with you.

Rachel Allan,  
Community Engagement Officer  
Leschenault Catchment Council

### What quantities of micro-plastics are in our ocean?

WE OFTEN hear concerns raised about micro-plastics and I was flabbergasted to read the following pieces of research recently.

ABC identity Dr Karl posted a social media video in September on micro-plastics.

In it, he cites a 2021 study that showed micro-plastics are present in the placentas of babies just born and suggestions that Australians consume between five and 250 grams of plastic each year.

In Greta Thunberg's *The Climate Book*, one of the authors highlights research that points out that if governments stick to existing commitments to plastics, by 2030, there will be a reduction in plastic waste of eight per cent.

These specific pieces of information stood out to me, amongst an ocean of others.

Inspired by a friend's university assignment, I wanted to see about testing our local waters to answer 'what do we discharge into the ocean?'

So, on a day I was at home with my daughter, we made a trip to Bunbury's 5 Mile Brook.

I scooped up 20 litres of water in barrels, took the water home, strained it, and then looked at it using a cheap plastic microscope from Kmart.

Being honest, I couldn't work out what I was looking at, so my attempts thus far have simply drawn a blank. I have no idea what this region is putting out into the ocean.

Perhaps my next question is, does anyone know?

I only know that I still get lazy and use take away coffee cups, and I wonder how many grams of plastic I consume in a year.

I'm full of contradictions, but I'm gonna keep evolving! Remember you can send us your gardening conundrums for a chance to be in this segment. Questions can be sent to [reception@leschenaultcc.org.au](mailto:reception@leschenaultcc.org.au)

*Josh Hobby, permaculturalist  
Leschenault Catchment Council*



**WASTE:** Sorting plastic rubbish from a clean-up day at the Leschenault Estuary in 2021. Photo: LLC

### Nesting turtles at risk

TURTLE nesting season is underway, but unfortunately many are run over by cars or succumb to predators while moving to dry land to nest.

The Leschenault Catchment Council and the Friends of Big Swamp are asking people to keep an eye out for snake-necked turtles, and to slow down.

Please remember, if a turtle is seen leaving the water, do not approach it. Turtles are easily startled and will return to the water, and not nest, if they are spooked.

If you would like to report a nesting turtle, please contact the Leschenault Catchment Council on 0458 960 576 and the Bunbury Turtle Trackers will be notified.

The turtle tracking program for this year is almost finished; however, if you are interested in joining Turtle Trackers next nesting season, get in touch.

The more citizen scientists we have monitoring the Big Swamp during nesting season the more we can do to protect this at risk species.

*Leschenault Catchment Council*



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December 2023

## All the Christmas trappings



European wasps feeding from raspberry cake (© Adobe stock) and European wasp surveillance trap hung in a tree.

### The 2023-24 season has started!

In time for Christmas, a 3000+ trap array has been set across Perth and regional sites in WA. Their purpose? To detect the invasive European wasp (*Vespula germanica*); one of the world's worst insect pests.

These gluttonous wasps swarm picnics, parties, cafés, and breweries, feeding on all things; drinks, sweets, and savories. Watch them close enough and you'll see their jaws skilfully carve a piece from your meal and take it to go. This behaviour makes them unique amongst wasp species and a social nuisance and safety concern.

European wasps also forage on fruit crops, impacting home gardeners and commercial producers, and their predation of insects can impact local biodiversity and beehives. When it comes to destructive pests, they take the cake.

The Department-lead European wasp surveillance and eradication program, has to date, prevented the permanent establishment of this species. However, every year fertilised queens hitchhike into WA on vehicles or in freight and cargo from interstate. If undetected, they will leave their mode of transport and make a nest, which is predominantly underground.

Manually searching for a nest, is like looking for a needle in a haystack. The traps help us locate where in this haystack we need to look.

The traps are simple, but cleverly designed. Composed of a clear plastic, lidded jar, wire hook, a yellow label, and four specially designed yellow cones. A trap typically adorns a tree, and the decorative yellow appeals to the wasp, drawing them to the cones. The cones funnel the wasp inside and make it difficult to escape.

Capitalising on the wasps' unique attraction to protein, present inside the trap is a small cube of raw fish. It's this fish that lures the wasp to the trap. If a trap doesn't contain the fish, it's just a plastic ornament.

Traps are strategically placed in the highest risk areas of the state by surveillance staff or hung in home gardens, parks or schools by community or government participants of the 'Adopt-a-trap' program. If diligently lured with fish (fortnightly) and checked for wasps, we'll detect them, find them, and eradicate them.

For more information about the eradication program, how to identify European wasps, or to adopt your own surveillance trap, see [agric.wa.gov.au/wasps](https://agric.wa.gov.au/wasps) or contact our Pest and Disease Information Service.



### Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter via app or online [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](https://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)

Pest and Disease Information Service (08) 9368 3080 | [padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)

## Talk of Our Shire - DBCR news

WHILE Barry's away the mice will play, and those mice have been busy!

Our Donnybrook-Balingup Community Radio (DBCR) leader Barry Green has been in Adelaide attending a three-day Community Broadcasting Association of Australia conference and we can't wait to hear how successful the event was and to learn what new tips and tricks he will bring back with him.

But the radio station keeps on tracking and what a busy but wonderful month it has been.

In an exciting upgrade to our service, we now have hourly news updates, sponsored by Bendigo Bank, and there has been lots of positive feedback regarding them.

We have two new day time presenters and two new night time presenters joining the crew, bringing fresh voices and ideas to the team, including a new Blues & Roots segment on air every Monday night from 6pm to 8pm featuring local southwest musicians.

The opportunities DBCR is offering to the wider community are expanding every minute!

First, we have our new 14 year-old drive-time presenter alongside Neil every Tuesday, and the Leading Ladies show recently provided a space for people with a disability or special needs to have the chance to come on air and guest co-host with me.

On Thursday 23 and 30 November I was joined



by two young men who both have autism and intellectual disabilities but dream to entertain.

The Leading Ladies show is extremely flexible when it comes to people who have a story to share, or an awareness to raise, and we are happy to change the segment name to Leading Lads or Leading Legends whenever needed.

I recently had a very interesting show when I was joined by the new shire president Vivienne MacCarthy. This was less focused on politics and more focussed on who Vivienne is as a person.

This hour provided a real insight into the new shire president, leaving many people reassured.

If you would like to listen to this interview, you can visit our website [www.dbcr.com.au](http://www.dbcr.com.au), click on our recordings menu and then follow link, or simply scan the QR code below. You will find many of our recordings in one place so you don't have to miss out again!

If you would like to come on the show, to talk about your community organisation or some idea you have, give Barry Green a call on 0428 317 006



Talk of Our Shire goes to air on Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon, and the highlights of each program are posted online, so you can listen if you miss the live show.

Maddie Clifford



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BUILT TO CARE

*Celebrating 20 years of serving the community 2003 - 2023*

# Was the book better than the movie?

BOOKS made into movies were explored by Donnybrook Page Turners book club in October and this is what everyone found:

*All The Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr, is a Pulitzer Prize winning story about hope and resistance.

The author swaps timelines in an engaging manner focusing on the story of two teenagers during World War II, one is a blind girl in Nazi-occupied France, the other a German orphan boy in the Nazi army.

The movie version was recently released on Netflix, and if it sounds familiar, that is because it is a popular book for Page Turner members.

*The Bridges of Madison County*, by Robert James Waller, was published in 1992 and this bestselling novel became a well-loved film in 1995, with its stars Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep.

The story of Robert Kincaid, the photographer searching for covered bridges in Madison County, and Francesca Johnson, the farmer's wife waiting for the fulfillment of a girlhood dream.

*And Then There Were None*, by Agatha Christie, is a mystery novel published in 1939 by this famous English author who described it as her most difficult book to write.

Ten strangers are invited to stay on an isolated island near the Devon coast, where they are cut off from the mainland and their hosts are mysteriously absent. When one stranger suddenly dies, they realise the killer is among them and is preparing to kill them all one-by-one.

The novel is an enjoyable read that was turned in to a movie in 1945 and a mini series in 2015, but disappointingly, the movie has a different ending to the book.

*Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott, was published in 1868 and set during the American Civil War.

It is the story of the March family, principally the four girls: Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy.

The girls who struggle and grow as a family while their father is serving in the war, learn the value of hard-work, self-sacrifice, and love.

There have been seven film adaptations of this well-loved novel, the latest version was released in 2019 and is available on Netflix.

*Still Life*, by Noel Coward, is a play written in 1936 portraying a touching romance that was the basis for the 1945 hit film *Brief Encounter*.


After meeting and falling in love in a suburban railway station, Dr Harvey and Laura meet weekly before realizing they must part forever. It is a slow burning romance between two people who are fated to never be together.

The final Page Turners meeting for the year is the Christmas chapter with the theme of biography - an account of someone's life written by someone else.

Donnybrook Page Turners




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### Presentations aplenty at end of year Christmas party

ALMOST fifty members of the Donnybrook Classic Auto Club enjoyed the annual Christmas lunch held on Sunday 19 November.

This year's venue was the Bunbury Sanctuary Golf Resort and the well-planned event was organised by members Henry and Sue Kowal.

Following our monthly meeting, Angelo and Jan Conti led the convoy of more than 20 cars from the Donnybrook clubrooms to the golf course venue.

Tables for 49 diners in a function room were attractively decorated by Sue for the festive season.

Sue and Henry also provided a little Christmas treat of mixed lollies or nuts for each attendee.

As members enjoyed refreshments and a variety of appetising meals, a slide show of videos and photographs of club events played on the big screen, courtesy of president Tim Jones.

The footage of the recent Grimwade Challenge drew the most comments, as it showed the skills required for this event and a few examples of what can go wrong.

After lunch, the annual club awards were presented by Tim, starting with the 'bright spark' award, which went to Shendelle Mullane for organising new club merchandise.

The most regular attendance award went to Helen Boyd, who was also recognised for her efforts in taking care of morning tea at the monthly meetings.

The most regular attendance with a club car was awarded to Angelo Conti, while the 'hard luck award' went to Dave Barnes, who also won the Grimwade Challenge.

The 'dipstick' award went to Tracy Doyle for directing her blind-folded husband Frank to drive their Rolls Royce into the obstacles, rather than around the obstacles, at the Grimwade Challenge.

The president's award was presented to Charles Smalley for his assistance and advice provided throughout this year.

The inaugural 'yellow sticker' award went to Glenn Sterkenburg for his drag car which would not pass a roadworthy inspection.

The Winter Weekender 'wooden spoon' award was presented to Bill Sims, for booking accommodation at the wrong venue, some 70kms from where everyone else was staying.

Another inaugural award this year was the radio award which was presented to Henry Kowal, for his constant use of the two-way radio on club runs.

Congratulations or commiserations to this year's award winners. As the club continues to grow, so too do the driving and camaraderie aspects of being a member.



*FESTIVE FUN (from left): Frank Doyle joins Cheryl and John Simpson in showing some Christmas spirit.*

If you have a liking for 'classic' cars, we would love to have you along. Our club meets on the third Sunday every month, and we always welcome new attendees who may be interested in joining.

For more information, contact club president Tim Jones 0436 303 408 or check out our facebook page DCAClub for photos of past cruises and events.

*Tracy Doyle  
Publicity Officer*

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# Community Connect

## SOCIAL · SPECIAL INTEREST

**Balingup CWA:** meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11am, followed by a shared lunch at the CWA rooms, Jayes Rd, Balingup. Contact: president Judy Hawter on 0423 074 473 or secretary Noelene King on 9764 1080.

**Begonia Society of Donnybrook:** meets monthly on the 4th Saturday, at 1.30pm for 2pm start at the CWA Hall, 2 Bentley St, Donnybrook. Phone: Trevor McGuigan on 0439 927 122 for details.

**Donnybrook Classic Auto Club:** meets monthly on the 3rd Sunday at 9.30am for a 10am start, at the Donnybrook Lesser Hall, Bentley St. Contact: president Tim Jones 0436 303 408.

**Donnybrook Community Garden:** is located at Egan Park, Donnybrook, and visitors are always welcome. Contact: Wink Lindsay on 0407 445 491.

**Donnybrook Community Workshop:** is run by Mens Shed Australia, for metal working projects. Every Thursday from 8am - 12 noon at the old Shire depot, Victory Lane, Donnybrook. Contact: Allen Brooks 0455 167 450 or John Simpson 0428 455 211.

**Donnybrook CWA:** meets on Thursdays, alternating days at 9.30am and evenings at 7pm, at the CWA Hall, 2 Bentley St, Donnybrook. Contact: Karen Miller 0427 211 008 (karenmello@hotmail.com), hall bookings Carolyn Hayes 0411 665 577 (chayes@lowdenridge.com.au).

**Donnybrook Gardening Group:** meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 2pm at various locations. Contact: Wilhelmina Mclvor 0400 747 097.

**Donnybrook Gourmet Toastmasters Club:** in-person dinner meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5.45pm - 8pm at the Seniors Room, Donnybrook Library, and Zoom meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 5.45pm - 7.30pm. Email: Robin on vppr-4281544@toastmastersclubs.org or phone Morrie 0429 834 912.

**Donnybrook Historical Society:** meets at the Donnybrook Museum on Emerald Street at 1:30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the months of February, April, June, August, October & December. Contact dbkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or 9731 8264.

**Donnybrook Masonic Lodge:** meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm, at the Masonic Hall, South Western Hwy, Donnybrook, except for installation/changeover which is held on the 3rd Saturday of September. No January meeting. Contact: Steve Pillage on 0438 345 067 or email mybigred@bigpond.net.au

**Donnybrook Mens Shed** woodwork meets every Tuesday and Friday from 8am - 12 noon, at Egan Park. Contact: Geoff Box 0472 632 176.

**Donnybrook Social Club:** meets at 1.30pm on Tuesdays for carpet bowls, cards & games, and on Fridays at 1.30pm for bingo or games at the Seniors Room, Donnybrook Library. Regular outings are also held. If you are over 55 and would like to join a very social group of people, please come along and get involved. Contact: Sue 0416 532 737 for further information.

**Kirup Community Op Shop** - last weekend of every month, Saturday from 9am to 3pm, Sunday 9am to 12 noon, at the Kirup Hall, South Western Hwy. Contact: Yvonne Zwart 9731 6331.

**Veteran Car Club of WA Inc.** Donnybrook branch meets monthly on the first Sunday at 10am at the Donnybrook Mens Shed, Egan Park. Contact: secretary David Newman 0419 834 063.

## CHILDREN · YOUTH

**Balingup Playgroup:** Tuesdays 9am - 11am at Balingup Primary School. Please bring a piece of fruit to share. Email: balingupplaygroup@protonmail.com

**Donnybrook District High School P&C:** Meetings held twice a term in weeks 3 and 8. For meeting dates, contact P&C President Karen Martella: 0437 171 082, or email: donnybrookdhs.p.c@gmail.com

**Donnybrook Playgroup:** Mon 9am - 11am (rhymes and story), Tues 9am - 11am (free play) during school term at Allnutt Community Centre (Child Health Nurse building). Contact Larissa 0447 769 470 or email: donnybrookplaycentre@gmail.com

**Story Time:** Thursday and Friday 10.30am at Donnybrook Library, during school terms. Ph. 9731 0432.

**Scouts:** Donnybrook Scout Group, open to boys and girls. Joeys, Mondays 4pm - 5pm; Cubs, Mondays 5.15pm - 6.45pm. Scouts, Tuesdays 6pm - 8pm. Contact Michaela, Cub/Scout Leader, 0438 146 507; Amanda - Joey Leader, 0427 888 301; or follow Donnybrook Scout Group WA on facebook.

**More over the page**

# Community Connect

## ART · CRAFT · MUSIC · LITERATURE

**Apple Strings Ukulele:** Meets every Thursday from 10am - 12pm, at the Boyanup Bowling Club. Please contact via facebook page - Apple Strings Ukulele - or phone Nora on 0420 574 083.

**Art Club:** meets at WA Smallest Art Gallery on the first Monday of each month 4pm - 6pm. Live art demonstrations and everything arty. Contact: Samuel Bariesheff on 0474 512 143.

**Balingup Patchwork and Craft Group:** Every Thursday, Balingup Recreation Centre, 10am - 3pm. New members welcome, tea and coffee provided; BYO lunch. Contact: Wendy Holmes 0417 493 440.

**Balingup Ukulele Group:** Meets from 1.30pm - 3pm every Tuesday at the Balingup Community Centre. Join us in fun and friendship and learn a new pursuit. Contact: Bronia 9764 1848.

**Balingup Valley Voices:** We sing a wide range of songs with an accomplished pianist. Join us on Tuesday from 4pm - 5pm at the Balingup Recreation Centre, \$1 per week. Contact: Noelene 9764 1080 or Marjorie 0477 806 224.

**Balingup Writers:** Meet 10am - 1pm every fourth Tuesday of the month, generally at the Balingup Community Centre. Visitors and new members welcome. Contact: Louise on 9764 1520 or Diana on 0418 976 410 to confirm venue.

**Donnybrook Arts and Crafts Group:** craft days from 10am - 2pm. Tues: pottery & knitting, Wed: crochet & knitting, Thurs: mosaics, Sat: anything goes! Held at the Blue Hall, Donnybrook. Contact: Carolyn Flynn 0429 311 357.

**Donnybrook Community Choir:** Sings Wed 7pm - 9pm at Donnybrook Tennis Club: 9731 1605.

**Donnybrook & Districts Country Music Club:** monthly dances featuring live music, line dancing, rock-n-roll, at the Donnybrook Memorial Hall. Call Geoff on 0455 546 906.

**Donnybrook Theatre Troupe:** for information call Sandra on 0499 933 324.

**Page Turners:** meets the last Wednesday of the month, 6.30pm - 7.45pm at the Blue Hall, Donnybrook. Free for Arts & Crafts Group members, \$4 for non-members. Email Claire: bindigreeneyes@hotmail.com.

**Writers Group:** Every 2nd and 4th Friday, Feb to Nov, 2pm to 4pm at Donnybrook Library. We welcome new and established writers of poetry, prose, fiction, non-fiction, histories, memoirs and everything in between. Phone Jackie 9731 0947 or email jackiecavill52@gmail.com

**Yabberup Craft Group:** Meets Wednesdays, 10am - 2pm at Yabberup Hall. Bring along craftwork. Contact: Bev Giudici 0427 958 889.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Argyle/Irishtown Bush Fire Brigade:** Training 2nd Sunday of the month - 9.00am at the Fire Station in Knights Rd, Argyle. Check road signs for details.

**Balingup Progress Association:** meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the Community Centre opp. Balingup Tavern. Contact balinguppa@outlook.com

**Donnybrook-Balingup Community Radio:** Donnybrook 102.1FM, Balingup 98.5FM: New members are always welcome. Chairman Barry Green 9731 7154, secretary Lynda Anderson 0410 310 969. Find us on facebook, or on our website: www.dbcommunityradio.com.au, or email: info@dbcr.com.au

**Donnybrook Regional Tourism Association:** to join, contact the Donnybrook Visitor Centre, 10am - 4pm, Monday - Friday 9731 1720.

**Lions Club of Donnybrook:** Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7pm at the Lion's Den, 10 Allnutt St. Promoting community, fun and friendship. Contact Peter Thomson: 0437 703 125

**RSL Meetings** held on the 1st Monday of the month, 7pm. Held upstairs at the Soldiers Memorial Hall. Contact Geoff Box: 0472 632 176 or Ric Evans: 0427 319 788. All welcome.

**Donnybrook State Emergency Service (SES):** trains every Monday at 6pm at the SES headquarters, Bentley St. Volunteers and visitors welcome. Phone: 0419 926 689.

**St John Ambulance:** first and third Wednesday each month, at 6pm at ambulance rooms, Bentley St. Phone: 9731 1577.

## CHURCH NOTICES

**All Saints Anglican Church** meets Sunday at 9am, 126 South Western Highway, Donnybrook.

**Donnybrook Catholic Church** 6pm Mass on Saturdays; 8.30am Mass on 1st Sunday of the month, 10am Mass on other Sundays, at Bentley St, Donnybrook.

**Donnybrook Christian Community Church** meets every Sunday at 10am in the Seniors Room at the Donnybrook Library. Contact Andrew for further details on 0423 189 441.

**Donnybrook Uniting Church** meets monthly for a shared lunch and communion on a Wednesday. Call Reverend Greg Ross on 0417 637 944 for details.

**Gospel Meetings** held every Sunday at 4pm at the Donnybrook Recreation Centre.

**New Life Family Church** meets at 10am each Sunday at the CWA Hall, Bentley St Donnybrook. Contact Tom 0417 940 616 or Julie 0417 894 028.

**More over the page**

# Community Connect

## SPORT · EXERCISE · WELLBEING

**Badminton Kirup:** (mixed) Thursdays 7.30pm at Kirup Hall. Contact: Jodie 0400 316 555

**Balingup Croquet Club:** Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings at the Balingup Recreation Centre. For information, call Carolyn on 0478 748 298.

**Bindi Yoga and Pilates:** Dru Yoga classes on Mon 6pm - 7.30pm Seniors Room, Donnybrook Library; Tues 9.30am - 11am Boyanup Community Centre; Fri 9.30am - 11am, Preston Village Community Centre. Beginners Mat Pilates classes on Thursdays 9.30am - 10:30am Preston Village, and 6pm - 7pm Seniors Room, Donnybrook Library. Contact: Claire Connolly 0415 670 139 or check Bindi Yoga facebook page.

**Bootscooting at Donnybrook Masonic Hall:** Mon 10am - intermediate; Tues and Wed 10am - beginners. Contact: Audrey 0458 567 183

**Donnybrook Amateur Basketball Association:** President Erin Delaporte, vice president Jodi Thomas, email: dbkbasketball@gmail.com, facebook: Donnybrook Basketball Association, season runs October to February.

**Donnybrook Badminton:** Thursdays - youth from 3.30pm - 6pm, adults 6pm - 7pm, at the Donnybrook Recreation Centre. Contact: Liliana Wright on 0412 880 233.

**Donnybrook Country Club:** offers bowls, golf and darts. Bowls season is September to April with Scroungers bowls running throughout the winter. Golf is played all year round. Meals are available every 2nd Friday during winter 6pm - 8pm, call Chris to book 0438 943 478. Check out our website donnybrookcountryclub.weebly.com.

**Donnybrook Football and Sporting Club:** training - seniors: Tuesday & Thursday; juniors: Monday-Thursday, VC Mitchell Park, Marmion St, club open Fri, Sat, Sun. Email secretarydbkfootball@gmail.com or check the club's facebook page.

**Donnybrook Horseman's Club:** Trail ride every 3rd Sunday of the month. New members welcome. Contact Sandy: 0429 690 771.

**Donnybrook Netball Association:** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, April onwards. Contact Linda McCabe for more information: 0428 364 459.

**Donnybrook Tennis Club:** Tuesday ladies' tennis from 9am, call Dot: 0437 081 037. Prof junior coaching on Saturdays from 8.30am, play is Saturday afternoons from 1.30pm. Contact President Jason Jarvis: 0429 311 363.

**Goju Ryu Karate:** Tuesdays at Donnybrook Recreation Centre. Juniors 5.30pm - 6.30pm, seniors 6.30pm - 8pm. Contact Shihan Peter Davis 0424 252 920.

**Origins Centre:** Jayes Rd, Balingup, info@originscentre.org or 9764 1109. Mindfulness classes Tuesday 8.30am and Friday 8am. Potluck lunch on Wed at 12.30pm. Fortnightly 'Kindy' playgroup held on Wed at 10am. www.originscentre.org

**Qigong:** For health and well-being. Low impact exercise, suitable for all ages. Workshops, classes, small groups and private lessons available. Contact De Robinson, 0458 613 656

**Sisters of Ishtar Belly Dance:** meets every Monday at the CWA Hall, 6.30 - 7.30pm. \$10 non-members. Beginners welcome. Check out our facebook page.

**Wellington Districts Pony Club:** holds its rallies one Sunday a month at the Donnybrook Horseman's Club grounds in Frontino Rd, Donnybrook. 0458 172 735.

## HEALTH SUPPORT

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Donnybrook Group, meets Tuesday evenings 7pm at the All Saints Anglican Church Hall, 126 South Western Highway, Donnybrook. Contact Tom: 0427 650 605 or Simon: 0499 055 578.

**Child Health Clinic:** Dbk Tues, Wed & Thursday: 9am - 3pm (by appointment only). Monday: 9am - 3.30pm, Boyanup, Group Sessions: Postnatal, Positive Parenting, Parenting Toddlers, Sleep Program, Bedwetting advice. Immunisation Clinic: 3rd Thursday of the month (by appointment) at the Dbk Child Health Clinic, 10 Allnutt Street, Donnybrook. Contact Nerida: 9735 1450

## EVENTS

**Boyanup Farmers Market:** Every fourth Sunday of the month except Dec which is on the 3rd Sunday, 0448 806 833.

**Donnybrook Apple Festival Committee:** Meetings held every three weeks on Wednesday evenings. Contact chairperson Sue Gray: donnybrookfestival@outlook.com

**Donnybrook Food & Wine Festival Committee:** Meetings held periodically throughout the year. Email: dbkfoodandwine@outlook.com or call Alexis Davy (president): 0415 514 424, or Rachel Green (secretary): 0405 160 487.

**Donnybrook Station Market:** Every 3rd Saturday of the month in front of the Donnybrook Visitor Centre from 9am to 1pm. Email: donnybrookstationmarkets@gmail.com or contact the Visitor Centre: 9731 1720 or Deb Lloyd: 0488 792 244.

**Produce swap:** exchange of all kitchen and garden related goods, fortnightly on Saturdays, behind the Donnybrook CRC, at 10.30am. Check 'What's On' for this month's dates. Rita Winkler: 0450 160 347.

# COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS, NOTICES and JOB VACANCIES

## LOST and FOUND

The following items were handed into the Donnybrook Police Station:

- a mobile phone found in Kirup in October,
- a sewing machine, microscope and laminator found in Donnybrook in October,
- A pair of earrings found in Donnybrook in November.

If you believe any of these items belong to you, contact Linda at the station, either in person, or by phoning 9732 3333.

You will be required to provide a description of the item and/or supply proof of ownership to collect the property.



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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I give notice that I have withdrawn my membership and support of the recently-formed Donnybrook-Balingup Ratepayers and Residents Association (DBRRA) and take no responsibility for the actions and statements of the DBRRA.

Rod Atherton, Donnybrook, WA 6239.

## 16 Days in WA - Stop Violence Against Women - Play Your Part

South West Community Campaign  
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[www.facebook.com/16daysinwa](https://www.facebook.com/16daysinwa)  
[southwestcommunitycampaign/](https://southwestcommunitycampaign/)

Find out what's happening near you!

Calendar includes White Ribbon Day Events



## Christmas Church Services in Donnybrook

### Combined Churches Christmas Carols

7pm, Sunday 17 December at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, Bentley Street, Donnybrook.

### Christmas Eve (Sunday 24 December)

9am - All Saints Anglican Church, South Western Highway, Donnybrook.

10am - New Life Family Church, CWA Hall, Bentley Street, Donnybrook.

10am - Donnybrook Christian Community Church, Seniors Room at the library, Emerald Street, Donnybrook.

6pm - Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, Bentley Street, Donnybrook.

### Christmas Day (Monday 25 December)

9am - All Saints Anglican Church, South Western Highway, Donnybrook.

10am - Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, Bentley Street, Donnybrook.

## Preparing an Emergency Kit

Having an emergency kit will help your family prepare for an emergency.



An emergency kit provides essential items for your family's short-term survival whether you choose to stay at home or relocate to a safer place before, during or after a natural hazard such as cyclone, storm, flood and bushfire.

### 1 Prepack your Emergency Kit with the following items;

- ☐ Portable, battery-operated AM/FM radio with spare batteries.
- ☐ Waterproof torch with extra batteries or wind-up torches that don't need batteries.
- ☐ A first aid kit.
- ☐ Bottled drinking water and non-perishable food items, can opener and cutlery.
- ☐ Protective clothing and blankets such as sturdy footwear, coats, pants, heavy duty gloves, wide brimmed hats and protective goggles/glasses. Smoke and particle mask for bushfires.
- ☐ A waterproof bag containing important documents like passports, identification, insurance documents and prescriptions.
- ☐ Precious items such as jewellery, medals.
- ☐ Survival plan with emergency contact phone numbers.
- ☐ Spare cash.
- ☐ Toiletries and sanitary supplies.



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# Winter golf finishes as bowls competition heats up

THE winter golf season at the Donnybrook Country Club has finished with players competing for the Lionel and Flo Clifford Memorial Trophy on the closing day of the season.

We thank the Clifford family for their continued support of this event.

The winners of the day were Gaye and Dave Williams, Troy Skippings, Grant Cockman and John Wotton with 56.

In second place were Kevin Lloyd, Roy Gordon, Allan Walker, and Jaie Needham on 58 3/8.

Third place-getters were Carolyn and Bill Chernabaeff, Bernie Dowley, and Terry Hornby on 58.5, and fourth were Nola Blake, Bruce, Dan, and Brad Thompson on 59.

At the end of season award presentation Dean Waters was announced as the winner of the men's handicap knockout trophy, with Cliff Welsh as the runner-up.

Dean was also clever enough to win this year's eclectic award and Ian Blore won the men's consistency trophy.

Winner of the ladies 2023 eclectic award was Jill Sheehan, the 2023 consistency award was won by Leanne Cooke, and the most ferrets award was won by Annie Sims.

A barbecue dinner was held after the event and was enjoyed by players.

The ladies held their end of season lunch with past and present players attending, including six past players in attendance, which was great to see. Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch provided.

The Donnybrook Golf committee held their election of office bearers for the 2024 season, with Lee Fitzgerald elected as president, Jan Kirkpatrick elected as secretary and Sue Merritt as treasurer.

Leanne Cooke has once again taken on the position of ladies captain, while Troy Skippings was elected men's captain.

Craig Van Uden is the men's vice captain and ladies vice captain is Leanne Ettridge. Committee members are Bruce Hearman and Alan Walker.

The lady bowlers are now well into the pennant season.

On their way to Boyup Brook to play against Bridgetown, they unfortunately came across a burning school bus at Lowden.

After waiting for ages, they were then turned back and had to detour back through Kirup, and down nearly to Bridgetown, to take the Bridgetown- Boyup Brook Road.

Two hours later, eight frustrated ladies arrived late, only to be hurried onto the green to start play. Consequently, we lost both games.

The next game was against Pemberton at home and both Donnybrook teams won.

The championship fours this year was won by Maureen Jackson, Nola Blake, Lindy Morison and Margaret Welsh.

The championship triples event was won by Maureen Jackson, Kate Wright and Treena Thorpe, with runners-up Kath Bedford, Margaret Welsh and Wendy Betti.

The ladies had a bit of excitement at one of their club social days when a snake decided to slither across the green from the direction of the club house to the far end of the rink.

Fortunately, to everyone's relief, the snake then disappeared. It seems there is never a dull moment at bowls!

The Donnybrook Country Club wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Mixed summer golf games will be held at the following times:

- Saturdays - tee off at 12.30pm.
- Tuesday GOD Squad - tee off 2pm.
- Wednesday 9 holes - tee off at 7.30am.
- Thursday scrungers 18 holes - tee off from 12pm onwards.

Meals are served at the club every second Friday. For booking phone Chris on 0438 943 478.

For all club membership enquiries call 9731 1268 or email [dcclub@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dcclub@bigpond.net.au). Results and information about the club can be found on our website: [www.donnybrookcountryclub.weebly.com](http://www.donnybrookcountryclub.weebly.com)

*Jan Kirkpatrick*



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## Kirup-Donnybrook summer darts highlights

THE results of the Kirup-Donnybrook summer darts competition games played on 14 November 2023:

- Y-Nots 9 defeated Gunnadoo 2
- Flight Commanders 7 defeated Dartaholics 4
- Fork-N-Darts 6 defeated Bullhitters 5
- Kirup Shooters 6 defeated Slingers 5
- On Point 6 defeated X-Rated 5

### High scores:

Dave Hollingsworth 180, 100; Jaring Rypma 160, Andy Sandri 140, 134; Bob Smith 140, 100; Di Stewart 135, 95; Mark House 133, Steve Kelly 133, Dan Russell 125, 100 x 2; Wally Hornby 125, Thor McKenzie 121, 100; Nick Gledhill 121, 95 x 2; Jay O'Dine 120, 100 x 2; Sue Martin 119, Christine



*PAIR OF LEGENDS: Natalie Sutton (left) and Sharlene Gristwood, runners-up in the ladies pairs in their division at the Australian Legends National Championship held in Bunbury on 21 and 22 October.*

Khan 119, Lorraine Bruyn 111, Todd Kirkness 108, 100 x 3; Sam Stevens 104, Bobby Bennett 100 x 2, Kyoh Phillips 100 x 2, Mel King 100 x 2, Louis Simpson 100, 98, 95 x 5; Greg Bacci 100, Tanya Cross 100, Tiffany Blackman 100, Gary Barker 100, Jodie Blackman 98, Tennille Pettersen 95, Maddy Melbourne 95, Richard Dellasale 95, Lala Deacon 95, Charmaine Kettle 95.

### High pegs:

Steve Kelly 112, Jay O'Dine 79, Di Stewart 74, Sharlene Gristwood 70, Kyle Gristwood 60, Bob Smith 55, 40; Dan Russell 54, Andy Sandri 48, Sherie Russell 47, Tennille Pettersen 44, Greg Bacci 40, Todd Kirkness 40.

Bob Smith scored three pegs for the night while Brodie Jonty, Lala Deacon and Sam Stevens all threw a 'chocky frog'.

## Donnybrook badminton

THE Donnybrook Badminton Club held a tournament on Saturday 18 November at the Donnybrook Recreation Centre.

Six teams of four players took part in the round robin event with many competitors travelling from Bunbury, Eaton, Brunswick, Donnybrook and Balingup.

Several of the Donnybrook junior badminton members took part in the event, and it was a very energetic event as all players competed in 15 games on the day.

Teams were given names associated with planets, and the winning team was Venus, consisting of Derrick Garcia, Ellie Simmons, one of our junior members, Rayleen James and Kay Hughes. Team Pluto came in a close second.

Thanks to our other participating junior members, Antonio Patane and Harley Hale, who also umpired and helped out in the canteen and the raffle in between games. Josh and Louis Burt, two backpackers residing in Donnybrook, also took part in the event.

The canteen was run by Catherine Simmons and Elaine Patane, who also acted as official photographer for the day.

Many thanks to Lilliana Wright for organising the competition and Bethia Bryant for collating all the scores.

Noelene King

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