



NEWSLETTER

WHEATBELT MEDICAL STUDENT IMMERSION PROGRAM 2025



The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu was proud to once again host Curtin University medical students as part of the Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program. This initiative gave students a first-hand experience of rural healthcare while immersing them in regional community life.

14 students were welcomed by Cr Stuart Boekmen at Wongan Hills CRC, before enjoying a town tour, a swim at the pool, and the hospitality of their billet families.

Over the next few days, they participated in a range of activities, including:

- A tour of the Wongan Hills Medical Centre and Hospital.
- A Teddy Bear Clinic at Wongan Hills District High School run by Dr Ajit.
- Visits to Ballidu Contemporary Art Society and Heritage Centre.
- Emergency response insights at St John Ambulance Sub Centre.
- A farm visit hosted by Peter and Sian Whitfield.
- A tour of the Wongan Ballidu & Districts Men's Shed.
- Exploring Lake Ninan and Mount O'Brien, enjoying the natural beauty of the region.

A highlight of the week was the Thank You BBQ, hosted by the Shire and the Men's Shed, with the Men's Shed purchasing the meat from the butcher and salads prepared by the Anglican Church. Shire President Cr Mandy Stephenson addressed the gathering, reinforcing the importance of rural healthcare.





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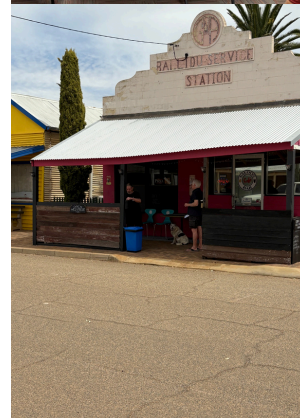


A HUGE THANK YOU

This program would not have been possible without the incredible support of our community. A special thank you to:

- Our billet/host families for welcoming students into their homes and making them feel part of the community.
- Wongan Hills District High School for hosting the Teddy Bear Clinic.
- Ballidu Contemporary Art Society and Ballidu Heritage Centre (Pam) for providing cultural and historical insights.
- Wongan Ballidu & Districts Men's Shed for their guided tour and involvement in the Thank You BBQ.
- Peter and Sian Whitfield for hosting students on their farm visit.
- Wongan Hills Medical Centre, Hospital, and Dr Ajit for giving students a valuable rural healthcare experience.
- St John Ambulance Sub Centre for providing hands-on emergency medical insights.
- The Anglican Church for preparing delicious salads for the BBQ.
- Our community, who helped to welcome the students to our town.

Your generosity and commitment have helped to create lasting memories for the students, and hopefully, inspired some to return as future rural healthcare professionals.





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Below is a poem written by the students and read out at the Thank You BBQ:

Wongan,
We've been here 4 days,
We've worked on some
bondin',
We've loved the home stays.

It started on a bus,
It wasn't really a fuss and
discovered our love for card
games.

We looked at some stars,
Visited some bars,
And climbed up a very big hill,
It was quite a thrill.

Saw some museums,
The artists - we see 'em',
On the way home:
The music was loud,
Gary was very proud,
He got to listen to our singing.

Then a dip in the pool,
Also visited the school,
And treated the kids teddy bears.

We visited the doc,
It was quite a shock,
The town loves a country GP.

We stared at the stock,
But don't worry, we didn't fire a
glock.

We stood at a lookout,
Very out of breath,
Had a pretty great cookout,
At least there has been no death.

David had too many men,
We looked at some wood,
And Ketharka won a pen,
Who knew a men's shed could
be so good.

The hospital was great,
There was a bird called Leo,
He is our new mate,
A painting was bought by Neo.

A ride in the Ambo,
Although it is no Lambo,
We still got to put the siren on.

The men's shed urn broke,
But now it's back to the big smoke.

So we thank you all,
Your commitment was not small,
And loved every second of our stay.

So we will all be back,
We'll give it a crack,
We'll come here again.
Our course is at the end,
Because we will miss you all,
It's been a ball,
and we wish you the best of luck!





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GRANT SUCCESS: PHOTO PRINTING SERVICE COMING TO WONGAN-BALLIDU!

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is excited to announce that we have been successful in securing a grant to introduce a photo printing service at the Wongan Hills Library and Community Resource Centre (CRC)!

This new service will provide affordable, local access to high-quality photo printing, eliminating the need for residents to travel long distances. The project aligns with our commitment to digital inclusion, ensuring that all community members—regardless of digital literacy—can confidently access and use this technology.

Library and CRC staff will be trained to assist users, making the service accessible and easy to use. Whether it's for family keepsakes, personal projects, or artistic prints, this initiative will provide a valuable resource for residents and visitors alike.

Stay tuned for updates on the installation timeline and launch date!

A huge thank you to the State Library of Western Australia's Technology and Digital Inclusion Grant program for making this possible. We look forward to bringing this exciting new service to the community!



KNIT AND NATTER ON TOUR!

Pack your bags and bring your best knitting and nattering spirit because Knit and Natter is hitting the road for a fabulous **day trip to Moora on 28th March!** This is the perfect chance to relax, explore, and connect with friends while enjoying shopping, delicious food, and plenty of laughs.

The trip will include a stop at the charming French-inspired café, Jeanne D'Moore, where you can indulge in freshly baked treats, aromatic coffee, and a delightful atmosphere. After a relaxing lunch, enjoy leisure time exploring Moora, browsing local shops, or simply soaking in the vibrant country town feel.

Bus departs at 9:00 AM, ensuring a stress-free and comfortable journey to and from Moora. And the best part? Travel is completely **FREE!**

Whether you're a regular Knit and Natter attendee or just looking for a fun day out, this trip is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, enjoy great company, and make unforgettable memories.

Seats are limited, so don't miss out! To secure your place, please call Dawn on 0439 594 625.





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MEL WHYTE APPOINTED TO WORKS ADMINISTRATION OFFICER POSITION

We are excited to announce that Mel Whyte, who has been a valued member of the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu team, has been appointed to the role of Works Administration Officer. Mel has been with us for some time and is highly regarded for her dedication and commitment to our community. We are excited to see her step into this new role, and we know she will continue to make a positive impact. Please join us in congratulating Mel on her well-deserved appointment and wishing her all the best in this exciting new chapter!



CURRENT ROADWORKS

-  **CONSTRUCTION CREW** – Old Wongan Koorda Road 4km Gravel Resheet
-  **BACKHOE CREW** – Old Wongan Koorda Road Culvert Replacements
-  **MAINTENANCE GRADER** –
 - Area 1** Hourigan Road and Old Ballidu Road Maintenance Grading
 - Area 2** Burakin Area Clearing Offshoots, Drainlines on our Bitumen Road Network and Maintenance Grading Local Roads
-  **TOWN MAINTENANCE** – Ballidu Footpath/Paving Maintenance and General Street Cleaning
-  **CONTRACTORS** –
 - Ballidu East Road Culvert Replacements
 - Ballidu, Federation Street Footpath Replacement

All Above Worksites Will Be Under The Direction Of Traffic Management

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

WBN Events

Monday 24th - from 1pm - CRC

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday 26th March- 3pm - Wongan Hills Shire Chambers

Knit and Natter On Tour

Friday 28th March - 8.45am - CRC

STAY IN TOUCH

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