



NEWSLETTER

END OF SEASON WRAP-UP – A GREAT YEAR AT WONGAN HILLS POOL!

As the sun sets on another fantastic season at the Wongan Hills Pool, we're taking a moment to reflect on the fun, laughter, and community spirit that made this summer so memorable.

From swimming lessons to carnivals, community events to casual swims, the pool was once again a hub of activity for people of all ages.

Season Highlights:

- Infant and Toddler Swimming Lessons
- Our littlest swimmers made a big splash, learning water skills and growing in confidence each week.
- Australia Day Community Fun Day 🇦🇺
- A brilliant day filled with fun, food, and plenty of poolside cheer!
- Poolside Volleyball
- A new favourite—bringing energy and excitement to the water's edge.

School Carnivals

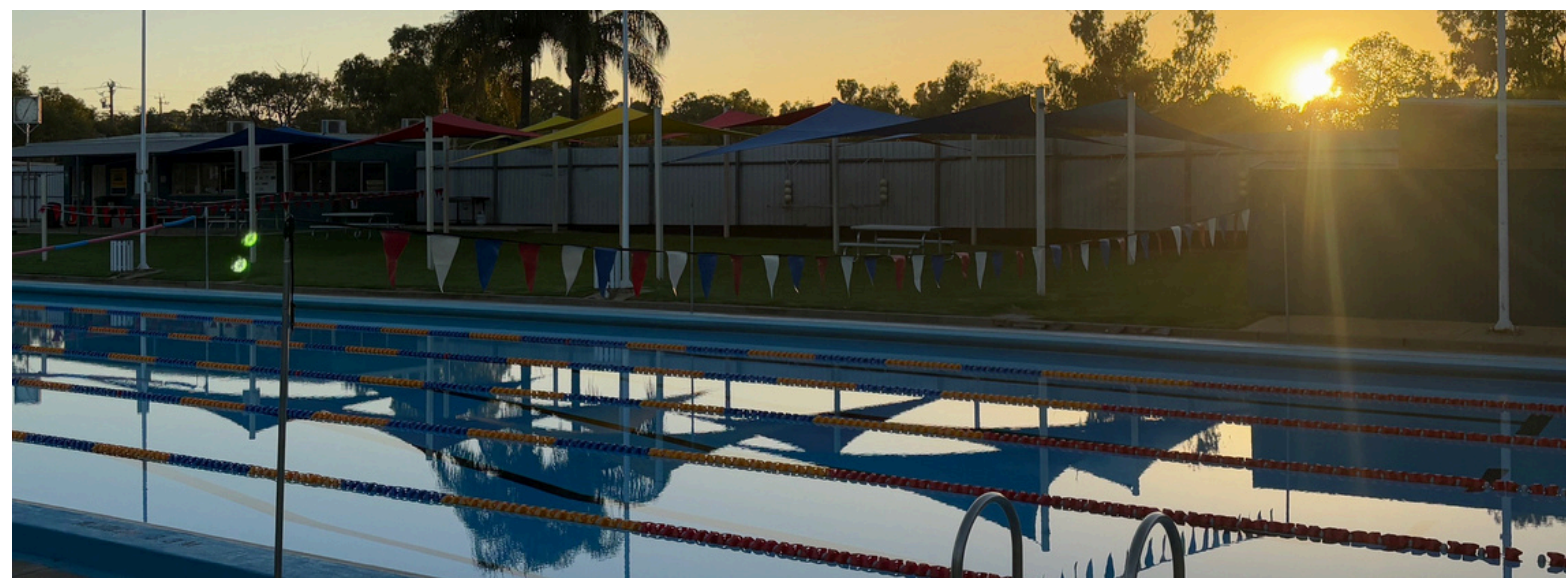
We were proud to host and support several school swimming carnivals, including:

- Cadoux, Calingiri, and Yerecoin Swimming Carnivals
- Wongan Hills School Interhouse Swimming Carnival
- The Wongan Hills-hosted Interschool Swimming Carnival

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, volunteered, supported events, or simply dropped in for a swim. Your enthusiasm made this season one to remember.

We're also thrilled to share that Trevor and Adele will be returning as Pool Managers for the 2025/2026 season! They've thoroughly enjoyed their time in Wongan Hills, especially the early morning laughs with regular swimmers, and are looking forward to doing it all again next season. *"We were made to feel so welcome when we arrived to start the season and have made some great friends. We are looking forward to the 2025/2026 season."*

Thank you for making this season such a success. We can't wait to welcome you back to the pool next summer!





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CELEBRATING THE 2025 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

On Friday 11th April, past and present winners came together to celebrate the achievements of the 2025 Community Service Award recipients at a special ceremony honouring community contribution across the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu. Shire President Cr Mandy Stephenson, alongside Cr Sue Starcevich and Cr Stuart Boekeman, presented the awards and shared details of the many worthy nominations. It was a particularly meaningful moment as Des Booth, the 40th Citizen of the Year, helped present the 41st Citizen of the Year Award to this year's recipient, Mrs Lyn Hood.

Citizen of the Year – Lyn Hood

For nearly 50 years, Lyn Hood has played an instrumental role in the cultural and community life of Ballidu and the wider Shire. From playing piano at countless community events, weddings, funerals and school concerts, to being a founding member of the Community Voices Choir and Wongan Hills Amateur Theatrical Society, Lyn's musical talents have been a constant presence in local life. Beyond music, Lyn has given her time generously across organisations including Rotary, the Netball Association, and as a long-serving Librarian. She has also been a devoted organiser of the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch and a long-time contributor to community church events. Despite recent health challenges, Lyn has continued to serve with unwavering dedication. Her warmth, humility, and tireless support for others make her a truly deserving Citizen of the Year 2025.

Community Group of the Year – Wongan Hills Tidy Towns Association

Come rain, shine or howling wind, the volunteers of the Wongan Hills Tidy Towns Association are out there keeping our town and surrounds clean, beautiful, and welcoming. From maintaining parks, gardens, reserves, and walking trails, to coordinating the popular Garden of the Year competition, this group exemplifies pride in place. Their work includes caretaking sites like Gathercole Reserve, Mount O'Brien, Mount Matilda, Christmas Rock Walk, The Arboretum, and the Wildflower Walks. Their commitment to making Wongan Hills a vibrant, cared-for place for both residents and visitors makes them a standout recipient of the Community Group of the Year Award.

Community Event of the Year – Wongan Hills Apex Club's 'Bogan Bingo' Event

In February 2024, the Wongan Hills Apex Club hosted the brilliantly entertaining 'Bogan Bingo' night, raising an incredible \$11,500 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. With over 120 attendees—many in full 'bogan' costume—the night was full of laughter, games, auctions, raffles, and community spirit. Local businesses got behind the event with generous donations, and the Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service added to the fun by manning the BBQ. A courtesy bus helped ensure everyone got home safely, and the club hosted fundraising BBQs in the lead-up to the event. Due to its success, Apex now plans to make Bogan Bingo an annual fixture, continuing to support RFDS and bring the community together for a good cause.

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu congratulates all 2025 Community Service Award winners and thanks every nominee for their remarkable contributions. A special thank you to Marlee's Morish Morsels for providing the delicious food and running the bar on the night, adding warmth and flavour to a truly memorable celebration. These awards reflect the spirit, commitment, and generosity that define our Shire.

Apex Club

Lyn Hood

Tidy Towns Association





Roll of Honour

Citizen of the Year

1984	Blanche Sadler & Dulcie Pelham
1985	Grace Millsteed
1986	Ben Clarke
1987	Rosemary Hyde
1988	Robert Hyde
1989	Clarice Collins
1990	Pam A Kennett
1991	Kath Cousins
1992	Alex Naisbitt
1993	Shirley Hewson
1994	Ken Whyte
1995	Margaret Chitty
1997	Helen Millsteed
1998	Peter Winter
1999	Des Kruske
2000	Vic Basham
2001	Ian Smith
2002	Sonya Thomas
2003	Colin Hopwood
2004	Dick Wallington
2005	Gerry Williams
2006	Rob Millsteed
2007	Bill Boekeman
2008	Reverend Kathy Barrett-Lennard
2009	Doug Basham
2010	Rodney Clarke
2011	Elizabeth Sewell
2012	Duncan Holme
2013	Clive Rees
2014	Joan Donnellan
2015	Trish Macnamara
2016	Norma Walton
2017	Heydi De Waal
2018	Leslie Oliver
2019	Alf Matthews
2020	Denis Lord
2021	Karen Box
2022	William Bynon
2023	Alfreda Lyon
2024	Desmond Booth
2025	Lyn Hood

Roll of Honour

Young Citizen of the Year

2002	Clint Pascoe
2012	Louise Beagley
2013	Tasha Abbott
2014	Cathy Ricciardone
2015	Louise Siegert
2016	Mark Wigmore
2017	Lorrice Richards
2018	Jai Pollard
2021	Elyssa Giedraitis
2022	Sarah Peters
2024	Ben Moss

Roll of Honour

Community Group of the Year

2007	Wongan Hills Tourist Promotion Centre
2008	Cubbyhouse
2009	Friends of the Cemetery
2010	Anglican Church
2011	Wongan Arts Society
2012	Wongan Hills Catholic Ladies
2013	Wongan Toy Box
2014	Mainly Music
2015	Wongan Hills & Districts Men's Shed
2016	Wongan Therapy Group
2017	Wongan Hills St Johns Ambulance
2018	Hospital Auxiliary
2019	RSL Wongan Hills
2020	Wongan Hills Rotary Club
2021	Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigade
2022	Wonga Balli Boomer
2023	Ballidu Contemporary Art Society
2024	Wongan Hills Apex
2025	Wongan Hills Tidy Towns Association

Roll of Honour

Community Event of the Year

2000	St John Ambulance Sub Centre
2001	Celebrate 2000
2003	Wongan Art Society - 2002 Exhibition
2004	WHDS Reunion
2005	Redevelopment, Sealing and Opening of Wongan Hills Airport
2006	Celebrating Women's Day
2007	Wongan Arts Society - 2006 Exhibition
2008	Sun Smart Country Swimming Pennants
2009	Wongan Arts Society - 2008 Exhibition
2010	Burning of the Straw Bale Cross
2011	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
2012	Wongan Hills Centenary Celebration
2013	Wongan-Ballidu Road Clean-up
2014	Wongan Hills Swimming Carnival
2015	Wongan-Ballidu Hockey Club Celebrating 75 Years
2016	BCAS 100 Years of Anzacs - Anzac Centennial Commemoration Week
2017	Reynoldson Reserve Festival
2018	Lapathon for Melanoma
2019	Bike it to Ballidu
2020	Ballidu Heritage Centre - 1st Anniversary Celebration
2022	Golf WA Provincial Tournament
2023	Wongan Hills Community Gardens Opening
2024	Cadoux Community Wellbeing Event
2025	Wongan Hills Apex Club's 'Bogan Bingo' Event



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SHIRE OF WONGAN-BALLIDU ATTENDS WALGA'S ANNUAL ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

On Wednesday 25th March, Shire President Cr Mandy Stephenson, Cr Dwight Coad, CEO Sam Dolzadelli, and Manager of Community & Customer Services Kim Walsh attended the WALGA Annual Aboriginal Engagement Forum at the State Reception Centre, Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park).

This forum brought together local governments and Aboriginal communities to engage in important conversations around collaboration, policy, and service delivery. The theme of this year's event, "Growing Together," provided an opportunity for reflection on the journey toward reconciliation and the shared experiences of Aboriginal communities.

Facilitated by Roanna Edwards, a Ballardong Noongar woman, the forum featured a variety of speakers, including First Nations leaders, who shared valuable insights into their work and perspectives on building stronger relationships with local governments.

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this event and appreciates the learning and perspectives gained from engaging in discussions with Aboriginal leaders and other stakeholders.



CURRENT ROADWORKS



CONSTRUCTION CREW – Dowerin Kalannie Road 5km Reconstruction.



BACKHOE CREW – Old Wongan Koorda Road Culvert Replacements.



MAINTENANCE GRADER –
Area 1 - Barrett Lennard Road, Scotney Road and Jenkins Road.

Area 2 - Kalguddering East Road and Kalguddering North Road.



TOWN MAINTENANCE – Various Locations General Street Cleaning.

All Above Worksites Will Be Under The Direction Of Traffic Management



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Easter Basket Making and Egg Hunt

Thursday 17th April - 2pm - CRC

Pop-Up Youth Centre Pizza N Paint

Tuesday 22nd April - 2pm - CRC

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday 24th April - 3pm - Wongan Hills Shire Chambers

Kids Art and Craft Day

Thursday 26th April - 9.30am - CRC

STAY IN TOUCH

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