



NEWSLETTER



CURTIN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT WONGAN HILLS

This week Wongan Hills was pleased to host Curtin University students as part of the 2026 Wheatbelt Medical Immersion Program, giving future doctors the opportunity to experience life, healthcare and community in regional WA.

Students were welcomed to Wongan Hills on Tuesday by Shire President Cr Stuart Boekeman, before beginning a series of activities designed to introduce them to rural health and community life. Programs like this play an important role in giving medical students a firsthand look at the unique opportunities and experiences that come with living and working in regional communities.

During their visit, students took part in a range of experiences including visits to the Wongan Hills Medical Centre, Wongan Hills District Hospital and the St John Sub Centre, where they were able to learn more about how healthcare services operate in rural areas. They also spent time at Wongan Hills District School, running a Teddy Bear Hospital session with students and sharing a fun and interactive way to learn about health and wellbeing.





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The group also had the opportunity to experience the broader community, with visits to the Ballidu Contemporary Arts Society and Ballidu Heritage Centre, the Wongan Hills & District's Men's Shed, and a local farm visit, as well as time spent exploring the town during a Shire-hosted tour. These experiences help showcase the lifestyle, community spirit and connections that are such an important part of regional living.

Last night the Shire hosted a thank you BBQ dinner for the students, host families and community members involved. Thank you to the Wongan Hills Men's Shed for cooking the BBQ and contributing financially to the evening, and to the Wongan Hills Anglican Church for making the salads. The Shire would like to thank all of the organisations, host families and community members who were involved in the program and helped make the students feel so welcome during their time in Wongan Hills.

Programs like the Wheatbelt Medical Immersion Program are a valuable way to introduce future healthcare professionals to rural communities and highlight the rewarding opportunities that regional practice can offer.





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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES CADETS

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu would like to congratulate our local award recipients following the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Youth Programs Awards Gala Dinner held at Optus Stadium on Thursday 12 March.

Cadet Unit Achievement Award

🏆 Wongan Hills District High School ESCC

Emergency Services BGU Support Award

🏆 Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

A special congratulations also goes to Levi Godfrey, who was named a finalist for the Cadet Achievement Award.

Wongan Hills District High School was named the 2025 top ESCC Cadet Unit, with an impressive 90 per cent of the school's students involved in the program, a fantastic reflection of the strong support and enthusiasm for the cadet program in our community.

The Shire is incredibly grateful to have such passionate and dedicated young people, volunteers, instructors and mentors in our town who contribute their time, energy and commitment to supporting and guiding the next generation of emergency services heroes.

Congratulations to everyone involved! Our community is very proud of you. 🇺🇸 🇦🇺





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CUPPA WITH



COUNCIL AND SHIRE EXECUTIVES

CUPPA WITH COUNCIL – COME ALONG FOR A CHAT!

Have a question, idea, or something you'd like to discuss with Council? This is a great opportunity to meet informally with Councillors and Shire Executives and have a relaxed conversation about local matters.

This event will follow the Council Meeting, which will be held at the Ballidu Heritage Centre from 3:00pm and is also open to the public. Community members are welcome to attend the meeting from 3:00pm onwards and then stay for Cuppa with Council afterwards.

-  **Wednesday 25th March**
-  **Cuppa with Council: 3:30pm – 4:30pm**
-  **Ballidu Heritage Centre**

Whether you want to share feedback, learn more about what's happening in the Shire, or simply stop by for a friendly chat, everyone is welcome.

 Free tea, coffee and light nibbles provided.

No formal agenda, just a chance to connect, ask questions, and have your say in a relaxed setting. We hope to see you there! 😊

CONGRATULATIONS DR AJIT CHAURASIA

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is delighted to congratulate our local GP, Dr Ajit Chaurasia, who has been named a finalist in the GP of the Year category at the 2026 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards.

This award recognises a general practitioner or rural generalist who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to rural healthcare, consistently delivering high-quality clinical care while building strong and meaningful connections within their community.

Dr Chaurasia's nomination is a wonderful reflection of the care, dedication and compassion he brings to his work each day. His commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of our community makes a real difference to the lives of many people across Wongan-Ballidu.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Dr Chaurasia serving our community and are proud to see his hard work and dedication recognised at a state level.

Congratulations, Dr Chaurasia, and we wish you every success at the awards.





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PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Bats have recently been encroaching in towns across the Wheatbelt. Bats pose a human health risk for severe illness from viruses such as Australian Bat Lyssavirus.

If you see a bat, do not try to capture it or interact with it and avoid contact with sick bats in particular. If you are bitten, scratched or licked by any bat, immediately seek medical advice from a doctor.

If you see a sick, injured or dead bat report it immediately to DPIRD on: 1300 374 731.

Further information is also available from DPIRD: [Works at the Wongan Hills Cemetery have now been completed.](#)

www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Rabies-and-lyssavirus

FUEL SUPPLY UPDATE – WONGAN HILLS

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is closely monitoring the fuel supply concerns affecting parts of the region.

At this stage, we can confirm that there is currently no impact to fuel supply in Wongan Hills, and Shire services continue to operate as normal.

We encourage community members to only purchase the fuel they need at this time, so that supply remains available for everyone.

The Shire will remain in close contact with fuel suppliers and will provide updates to the community if the situation changes.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



HEALTH ALERT

WHEATBELT PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT HAVE ISSUED A PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT REGARDING HUMAN AND BAT INTERACTIONS



FUEL SUPPLY UPDATE

THERE IS CURRENTLY NO IMPACT TO FUEL SUPPLY IN WONGAN HILLS





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Wongan-Ballidu



ROAD CLOSURES – THURSDAY 19 MARCH

Please be advised that Manmanning Road will be closed between Danubin Street and Cemetery Road on **Thursday 19 March 2026 from 6:30am to 4:00pm** due to roadworks.

Manmanning Road: Closed between Danubin Street and Cemetery Road

Detour in place: Danubin Street → Ninghan Street → Cemetery Road (and vice versa)

Additional closures:

- Ackland Street closed at Broadbent Street
- Pioneer Road closed at Avon Road

Motorists are asked to follow detour signage and allow extra travel time.

We appreciate your patience while these works are undertaken.



ROAD CLOSURES

THURSDAY 19TH MARCH

MANMANNING ROAD
ACKLAND STREET
PIONEER ROAD

CURRENT ROADWORKS



CONSTRUCTION CREW - Dowerin Kalannie Road reconstruction.



MAINTENANCE GRADERS –
Area 1 - Dowerin Kalannie Road drains and offshoots, local roads and bus routes.
Area 2 - Manmanning Road drains and offshoots, local roads and bus routes.



BACKHOE CREW - Dowerin Kalannie Road culvert maintenance and Hourigan Road culvert upgrades.



TOWN MAINTENANCE - General street cleaning and Wongan Refuse Site maintenance.



CONTRACTORS - Manmanning Road upgrades.

All Above Worksites Will Be Under The Direction Of Traffic Management.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday 25th March - 3pm - Ballidu Heritage Centre

STAY IN TOUCH

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📍 Shire of Wongan-Ballidu & Wongan Hills CRC
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