

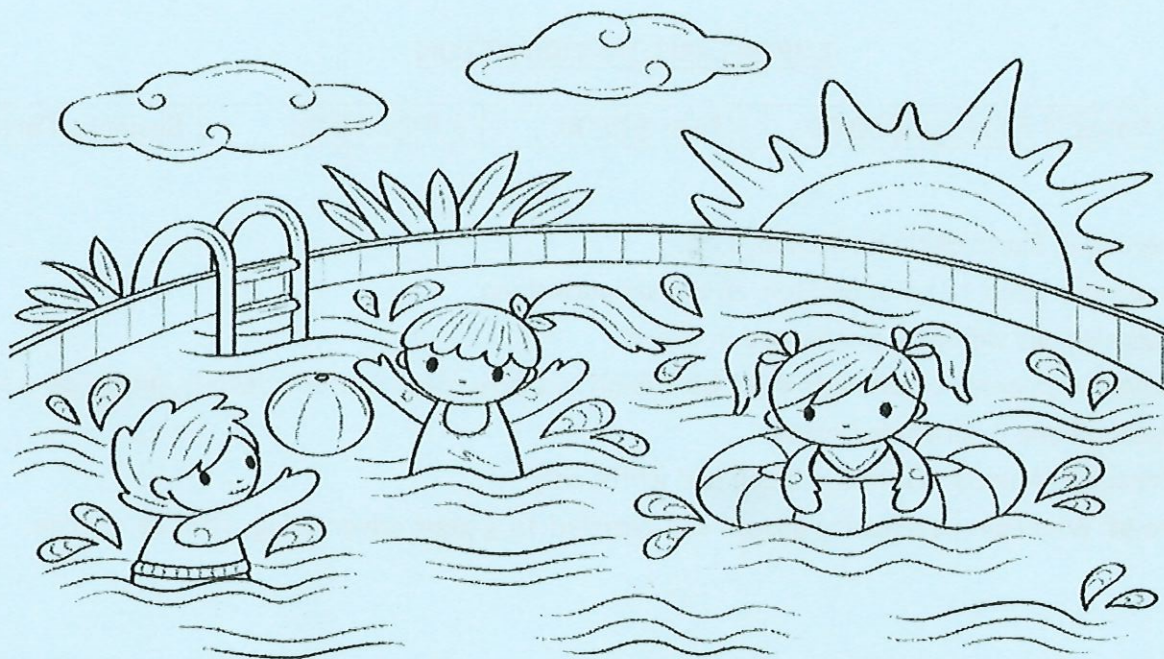
WATERSHED NEWS

PO BOX 60 WICKEPIN WA 6370

ABN 96 234 351 594

A fortnightly paper for the areas of
Dudin, Toolibin, Tincurrin,
Harrismith, Yealering and Wickepin

30th October 2023



Wickepin Swimming Pool

**Opens
Wednesday
1st November 2023
1 - 6pm**

WATERSHED NEWS INC - COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Watershed News is located at the Wickepin Community Resource Centre.

Address 24 Wogolin Road, Wickepin 6370

Postal Address PO Box 60 WICKEPIN WA 6370

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Email: watershed@wn.com.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Advertising Rates	Full Page \$30.00	$\frac{1}{2}$ Page \$15.00	$\frac{1}{4}$ Page \$8.00	Business Card \$5.
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- Publishing is Fortnightly on Mondays.
- Submissions need to be in by 11am on day of publishing.
- All submissions would be preferred in Word.
- All advertisements, classifieds must be submitted with clear contact details, including a postal address, phone number and email.
- Watershed News is printed in black and white only.
- Shire of Wickepin Community groups are entitled to $\frac{1}{2}$ page advertising, free of charge.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the publications of the Watershed News are not necessarily those of the editor/s or other volunteers who produce it. We reserve the right not to print articles that are inappropriate.

Next edition of Watershed News

Monday 13th November 2023



Community Notes

Birthday greetings: Courtney Rose, Rowan Bird, Darcy McDougall, Michael Simpson, Stuart White, Beau Flood, Lucas Thompson, Jazmine Ellis, Jessica White, Hazel Wilson, Jody Matthews, Fraser Mead, Lee-Ann Mullan, Ruth Parker.

Recently family and friends gathered at the family farm to celebrate with Kerry and Keith Parnell the commencement of retirement from their very successful tree nursery.

Kerry and Keith commenced the tree nursery around twenty-four years ago, developing the business over the years, growing and delivering many millions of eucalypt seedlings far and wide.

The Parnell's were highly respected within the industry producing a wide range of eucalypt varieties of the highest quality to suit the many soil types and climatic regions they were to be planted in.

During the evening son Kris, partner Bec and three children Max, Zak and Evie along with daughter Amy, partner Nahi and children Tarkyn and Peyton regaled the many experiences of visits to the farm over this time.

Previous young folk, who have worked for Kerry and Keith at the nursery over the years, spoke in glowing terms of their experiences and knowledge gained while working for the Parnell's.

We wish Kerry and Keith all the very best for their next life adventures.



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The Watershed News is needing more volunteers to maintain the fortnightly issue being published. It's not that hard and very rewarding. Should you be interested in offering your services, call in to the Wickepin CRC Monday 13th November, next issue date, and see for yourself how you can help. Tasks are printing, collating, typing (knowledge of Microsoft word and publisher an asset).

KITCHEN RENO

Poem submitted by Sandra Neary

Sitting here all alone, thinking of this little poem.
Feeling down I don't know why, is it time to have a real good cry.
Our kitchen has real big hole in the floor, maybe we should just shut the door.
A lot of help and hard work should do the trick, but by gee it ain't happening too quick.
I wonder if we should have waited, cos everyone is just getting frustrated.
For those who have helped, appreciation is truly felt.
Now the work has been done, we would like to thank each and everyone!



THANK YOU ALL!

What's On In Wickepin Shire

Mondays:

Watershed News every second Monday:

Fit Pursuit 6am-6.45am @ Wickepin Community Centre

Tuesdays:

She Shed He Shed - @ Old Recycling Shed Richter St- 9am-12noon

Pathology Service~ Appointment Only @ Wickepin Health Centre
Phone No 98881104

Yoga at Harrismith Hall 6pm – 7.30pm – all welcome
Further details: Ph Tara: 0427 333171

Wednesdays:

Every Wednesday- Social Arts & Crafts @ 9.30am - Joyner St

Chair Aerobics 9.00am – 10.00am Wickepin Health Centre

Thursdays:

Fit Pursuit 5.45am-6.35am @ Wickepin Community Centre

Wickepin Playgroup 9.00am – 11.30am during school term. Ages 0-5

Local Vocals with Mazz – 6pm in Narrogin

Saturdays:

Banksia Bowmen Archery- Wickepin Community Centre @ 9am
Club Equipment Available

Sundays:

Anglican Church every 1st & 3rd Sunday @ 8am



Due to seasonal conditions, the Shire of Wickepin would like to advise our local community that the "Prohibited Burning Period" is being brought forward to 1 November 2023 and will cease midnight 7 February 2024.

This means that no burning in the open air may occur during the above mentioned period.

This is in accordance with section 17 (7) & (8) of the Bush Fires Act 1954 and in accordance with delegated authority under section 17 (10) of the Bush Fires Act 1954.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Appointment

Council has appointed Mr Tim Clynych as Acting Chief Executive Officer. Tim commenced with the Shire on Monday 23 November 2023.

The recruitment process has commenced to appoint a new Chief Executive Officer.

Tim will remain with the Shire until this appointment is made. Please take the time to welcome Tim to our Community.



Ordinary Meeting of Council

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 15 November 2023, Council Chambers, 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin.

The Shire of Wickepin welcomes community participation during public question time. Members of the public are able to ask questions relating to the business of the Council.

For further information and guidelines regarding public question time please contact the Shire Administration Office.

Seniors' Christmas Lunch – Friday 1 December 2023

The 2023 Senior Christmas Lunch will be held on Friday 1 December 2023 at the Wickepin Community Centre, commencing at 11.30am.

The Seniors Christmas Lunch is an event our seniors look forward to every year.

This year we are in need of some new volunteers. Please contact the Shire Office if you can help in anyway.

Wickepin Swimming Pool

The Wickepin swimming pool will open this Wednesday, 1 November 2023, 1pm – 6pm. The pool will be closed every second Tuesday commencing 7 November 2023 except during VacSwim or Education Department swimming lessons.

Season passes are available from the Shire Office -

- Family \$132
- Adult \$ 84
- Child \$ 60

All Children under 10 must be supervised at ALL time.



Road Maintenance

Upcoming roads for maintenance grading include –

- Sprigg Road

Please drive according to road conditions and abide by road safety signage.

2023-2024 Rates Instalment Payments

The next due date of the 2023/2024 rates instalments is **27 November 2023**.

If you have any queries regarding rates payments please contact the shire office on 9888 1005.

Harvest Ban Alerts

The SMS (text) alert service will again be in operation over the coming harvest/bushfire period.

If you would like to register your number to receive these messages or have your number removed from the system, please contact the office or email your details to admin@wickepin.wa.gov.au.

Bush Fire Uniforms

Bush fire uniforms and personal protective goggles and respirators for Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade officers are available from the shire administration office, with one free uniform per registered brigade volunteer.

You **MUST** be registered with a brigade to receive a uniform.

Townsite Properties

In the coming weeks Shire Officers will be inspecting all townsites within the Shire of Wickepin and will be issuing notices to residence of unsightly properties.

This includes but is not limited to long grass, motor vehicles, general rubbish, etc. Failure to comply with these notices will result in the land owner being issued with a fine.

Bushfire season is fast approaching, to report **ANY** fire whether in a paddock, bush, townsite, house, roadside, etc you **MUST RING 000 FIRST**.

You will need to provide the location of the fire to the Operator who will then contact our Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who will alert the Fire Control Officers.

Employment Opportunities

- Finance Officer – Fixed Term – Twelve (12) Month Contract
- Executive Support Officer – Full Time Position

The Shire of Wickepin is seeking two (2) competent and enthusiastic employees to join our team.

Further details and application package are available on the Shire's website (www.wickepin.wa.gov.au) or by contacting Mrs Erika Clement on 08 9888 1005.

Applications must be received by **4:00pm Friday 17 November 2023**.

Yealering Ablution Block

The Yealering ablution block is **CLOSED** until further notice. Construction of the new amenities will commence soon. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Wickepin Independent Living Units – Watch This Space!

The Wickepin Independent Living Units are in there final stages of competition. Shire employees have been busy at work and have started landscaping the gardens.



Naming of the Wickepin Independent Living Units

At the October Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council resolved to name the Wickepin Independent living units Woodland Court with individual Unit numbered 1 to 4.

A TRIBUTE TO TOPSY – (Judy Lang’s mother)

Read by Judy Lang at the 100th anniversary of St John’s Anglican Church – 29/10/2023

Written by John Brown, Choir boy, 1954

Topsy Doncon was born a lover of music and song, she had a marvellous ability to be able to share her talents with all. She and others formed a boys choir at St John’s Church, Wickepin in 1954 and became choir mistress of some 13 or 14 young boys.

They were the sons of Church going families and became enrolled as choir boys, all nice looking youngfellows with very treble voices and the smell of Brylcreem in their hair and a well trained slick back hairstyle and the odd devilish prankster amongst them. Topsy had amazing control of the boys which she did with facial expressions and the movement of her head and a frown or two.

Certainly a task it was to keep the pedals of the organ pumping, read and play the music and hope the choir boys remembered all they were taught at choir practice on the Friday afternoon. Also a very important part of Friday was pocket money day with an urge to rush to Mrs Thomas’ shop to spend our one shilling.

On one occasion two choir members were making their way to Friday choir practice double-dinking down from Prossers when the one being dinked dropped his lunch tin in the spokes of the front wheel, and two little choir boys went crashing to the ground, both badly skinned, they found their feet and staggered back to Prossers, were cleaned up, dusted with Mercurochrome and sent back to the church, walked in late and joined in with the singing of Silent Night. This is an example of how important choir practice was to our parents. Graeme and John weren’t sure.

Tummy upsets and wind at times would claim a victim followed by uncontrolled giggling that carried on intermittently for the rest of the service.

Topsy was stern on regular attendance and it was normal for all to be there, and there were prizes given for good attendance.

However one Friday strangely Toot and Keith were missing, practice was delayed but still no sign of them, then was heard a rumbling in the altar area and two little heads appeared from beneath the altar cloth, it is still unknown if they were ticked as present or not.

The organ was also a target with some little choir boy mischievously pulling out one of the stops and leaving Topsy without music. We dressed in a little hot vestry room, where the Holy wine was kept and the temptation for some unnamed boy had got the better of him, some wine had gone missing and had been replaced with water, however this did not go unnoticed and was quite a talking point after Church.

Sunday Church was very formal, well dressed people wearing hats, gloves, suits and ties and older gentlemen with god pocket watches and chains, all would stand and Rev. Walker would lead the choir down the Church aisle to either side to the four choir pews at the front of the Church.

One particular Sunday the blonde haired twins decided they would be first dressed for footy so they came dressed in footy gear with their cassocks over the top and filed down the Church aisle with a “Clickety Clack”. This turned many heads but it only happened once.

Topsy was so proud of her choir boys – she trained our voices well and we would sing loud when she or Re. Walker were near. Her efforts had brought joy to the lives of the Church goers and Rev. Walker alike – she had touched the hearts of her pupils and we remember her well.

Topsy loved us all – she treated us equally and had more control of us than our mothers. She gave her time willingly and never complained. Today we give thanks to her for the teaching and caring of us - her bright and cheery nature will not be forgotten. She was our mentor and led us by example. She gave us her all and we are truly grateful.

May you be at peace and God’s blessing be upon you.

Eulogy: Donald William Thomson 7th June 1946 - 25th September 2023
Presented by: Malcolm Talbot - Friend and Fellow Farmer

It was the year 1988, Chris and I were new commers to Wickepin / Toolibin / Tincurrin area. Bright eyed and bushy tailed, ready to go on our new property when the telephone rang one January evening.

"Is this Mc Gouly's wood yard?"

Well, who the hell is this, some psycho or the older-day equivalent of today's scammer, you know.... *You have freight or.... your E tag payments are not up to date and we can pay them for you, just*

In short, Don invited us to the Toolibin tennis club, which was the start of many great years of friendship and sharing the agricultural passion.

Born on the 7th day of June 1946 to Molly and Alec Thomson of Tincurrin, Donald William Thomson, younger brother to Hugh and later to be older brother to sister Jeanette.

The timer had started on a life that would create so much and intersect many of our earthly journeys along its way. Always interested in the person, that is you, engaging and encouraging. He said to me one day, "Even the biggest fool has got something to offer." Wow... I thought, maybe Don would be interested in something I have got to say...

So, it is today I wish to speak about just a few aspects of Don's life knowing that each and every one of you have your own personal stories, memories of a man that was an encouragement to so many... Hold the memories close and cherish them.

It is useful to contextualise 1946. It is just months after the close of WW2 and the ruinous years of the great depression. Frugality was the order of things, and the Thomson household was no different. Domestic milking cows to be attended to, water gathered into tanks from every point to capture as much of the natural rainfall as possible, the occasional soak, and their own skills applied in butchering meat supplies. Rebuilding came slowly, rations of fuel were increased, and more land clearing was undertaken on the 300 hectares owned by Don's parents. Wool from their small merino flock however had reached a pound a pound in the February of 1951. (\$80/Kg today, more on this later.)

1952-58 Primary School Years

In 1952, official learning began. Don would proudly recount that his teacher at Tincurrin primary had many tasks and accomplished them all in style. She was gardener, cleaner, responsible for classroom heating via a mallee root fuelled fire and then have prepared lessons for multiple grades. Don loved learning and achieved well.

1959-61 Narrogin Senior High School

Between 1959 and 61, Narrogin Senior High was a place for Don to blossom. Sports; hockey, football, tennis, and table tennis some of his favourites. Academic learning was important to him, and I have it on good authority that studious Don, always chose to seat himself at the front of the class.

1962-63 Narrogin Senior High School Agricultural Wing

1962 and 63, Don attended the High School's Agricultural Wing, a time and I quote "were some of the best years of my life." He was in his element, mates galore to collaborate with 24/7... and valued instruction in the field of learning he loved. Agriculture. Monty Buttfield was Principal, a hard, but fair man recounted Don. He would take football students to a rigorous training session after school hours down on the oval. Thommo was a prefect in his year twelve and in the end, academic Dux of school.

The 13th of March 1971 saw the folks of Harrismith organise a variety concert, to which people from other districts were invited. One Roberta Sim from down south a little, walked by Don catching his eye and his cheeky voice. "What are you doing here?" Just as quickly the reply "Keeping out of Jail." A love match was made, provided Bobby could dislodge Sammy, Don's kelpie companion.

1972 Marriage and Family

Roberta Josephine Sim and Donald William Thomson were married on January the 9th 1972 at the Narrogin Uniting Church.

Over the next few years, they were blessed with three wonderful children, Roger, Stuart, and Gerri, who they proudly described as their life's greatest achievements. The family enjoyed holiday fun for many years at Busselton Beach Resort. And like clockwork...Don would bolt out of bed at the crack of dawn and race to the front desk or white board, to book a tennis court. He played hard with his mates all morning but kept afternoons for a hit with his children.

Don and Bobbie, I know, saw it as a privilege and honour to have Roger, Stuart and Gerri come along with their respective partners Nat, Jen and Wade... making up a new dimension to their greater family. Grandies have blessed them all with Aimee, Hadyn, Ricky, Kiera, Xavier and Spencer.

Sporting Life

Don was a talented sportsman. Every January was holiday time in Denmark at the Edinburgh Boarding house which was owned by family friends. This was Don's family holiday until he was 8. Then with his siblings, he was given the opportunity during this part of the calendar to attend tennis coaching with Arthur Marshall.

In a tennis loving family his prowess began young when he and Laurie Dunn heading off to country week in Perth as 11-year-olds in 1957. As youngsters both Don and Jeanette were often number one at Toolibin.

Toolibin Tennis Club was his home court. Club president many times, clay court repairer, line marking stalwart, pennant team captain so often with organising inter club matches and a lifetime membership holder.

He was a man always generous with his time, coaching juniors, and even sharing his Fanta with a little toddler after a match. Juniors were included on court with experienced players at Toolibin to their and the club's benefit. The spirit of this inclusion and encouragement emanating in part from Don.

After a winter in long trousers, He would peer down at his scrawny legs in tennis shorts and say, "If the constabulary were around... they'd book me for no visible means of support." However, watch out if you were on the receiving side of the net from Donny, he was a clever competitor, a quick mover on those slim pins... and be ready for the underarm serve at the most unexpected time just to keep you on your toes.

In the late 1960s, Don played A grade footy for Wickopin and was part of the 1967 grand final team. Out in the paddock one day, Don recounted a footy story. There was a rather large fellow playing from out west who had called him "a sly slippery little bastard," with the threat of "I will get you one day". With one eye out at all times, he just managed to rotate counterclockwise out of the way, and not be crunched. His words... "had he got me it would have definitely left me with a lifetime legacy to carry."

Don excelled at hockey from the times of Narrogin senior high school to playing for Riffs club at Narrogin receiving many varied forms of recognition and rewards for outstanding play and conduct.

He was a table tennis whip. There was a game of rotations in table tennis at Ag College, you know during those years 1962-63. Again, his words, (Some of the best years of my life,) where players who lost the present game, would file around to form a line behind the winner of that game, and so it proceeded. There was just one failure in the programme. Everybody ended up in a line behind Thommo because he never lost.

The Agricultural Life

Bring to mind a picture of Don on any sale day, field day or any other information day and he would have a notebook and pen in his hand. Blessed are the scribes for they sure know what is going on....

If you wanted to know the sale price of that excess chemical back in January the year before at a particular farm clearing sale, Don would have the information at the ready and if not, there was a designated little stockies' booklet for that sale. Red or Green, it had all the sale data, no problem. Likewise, when contemplating a market for different classes of sheep from his own enterprise he had the prices at hand of any stock sale he had been to or heard of, and could supply it all from records, from his arsenal of preparedness.

Rainfall records going back to before some of the land he farmed was even cleared, he had the annual rainfall data recorded whether that be at home, Cedric's, Durack's, Baine's or Davo's. After rain he'd ring...

"We had 11.7mm at... 12.8mm at.... 15.2mm at.... 9.8mm at... How much did you get?"

"16mm, Don."

"Well, how the devil looks after his own..."

Don kept a day-by-day diary, scribing what had occurred and what needed to happen sooner or later in the farming programme. Reams of records that I know will be cherished by Gerri, his farming successor.

Along with these record keeping habits, Don had a particular group of historical statistics he kept on comparing cost inputs with gross produce value. He took a tyre, a tonne of urea, a bearing, a belt, a litre of phenoxy herbicide, a long list of things required for agricultural production but by their nature did not change over time. In the next column were the prevailing average expected gross prices for Wheat, Oats, Barley, Hay, Sheep and wool. The comparative list commenced in 1973, updated in 1983, again in 1993, and repeated in 2003. The results of this analysis were nothing short of gob smacking.

For you farmers, you can be exceptionally proud of your efforts as Don's records show you have farmed successfully through a rising cost structure that has your terms of trade deteriorating at a rate of 16 to 1.

Back to the... a pound a pound for wool story. If wool had held to its purchasing power of 1951 pounds, it would currently sell for A\$80/kg. Blessed are the scribes.

Early Years, RAFCOR and Wesfarmers

The early years of farming were not easy, land clearing and the constant stump picking with fires burning throughout the late Summer and Autumn seasons... Started of course by a very conventional means of a flame thrower... Some of the Thomson land was a little later cleared than the surrounding farmland. Shrinking remnant areas of vegetation

holding an ever-growing number of vermin. Some of you I know spent your time on fox, rabbit and roo shoots giving assistance to control of the problem. I never did go shooting with Don, but I can claim one huge boomer coming up Frank's Lane about 9pm one evening.

Financial rewards were poor, placing the newly married couple in what was really a very difficult monetary position. Don's words "We applied for and got a loan from RAFCOR, without it we were actually done. With this wind at our tales, we went to Wesfarmers and made application for assistance to buy fertilizer, 2 years' worth actually, which they graciously provided and as a consequence, sett Braeside on a new trajectory." All this occurred just prior to Goff Whitlam removing the prevailing \$16 /tonne fertilizer subsidy.

New Land Requires Pasture Development

In August of 2010, Wade wrote a submission nominating Don for "Diversification Farmer of The Year" and I quote from his work.

"Ask Don the secret to his success in turning Braeside around and he will tell you that sub clover underpins the entire farming system. "Sub clovers are the life blood of our land and the farming enterprise." He became passionate about establishing sub clover on the farm upon returning home from the Narrogin Agricultural College and Braeside now carries 607 hectares of certified clover seed. Domestic sales reach over 70 different buyers and growing. Clover growing in pastures now ensure that very little nitrogen fertilizer is purchased. Don believes that if it were not for the growing of sub clover pastures, Braeside could not carry the sheep stocking rates or achieve the crop yields it currently enjoys."

The Passion Passes On

Don and Bobbie at the request of many responded to the call to share the story of their farming Journey. They would speak at field days, seminars, information days put on by accounting firms and Bank run farm analysis events. They generously shared their journey and the 10+ commandments.

*If it is worthwhile doing, do it properly.

*You only get back pro rata to what you put in.

*If you are going to take a gamble, make sure it's a calculated one and if you panic, make it organised.

*Don't be afraid to experiment on a small scale. You learn faster by your mistakes. The hip pocket is very sensitive.

*If you can grow a legume, you'll grow a crop.

*Your two greatest assets are the land and the people who work it. Look after them both well.

*Remember, the person who has never made a mistake has never really done anything.

*Don't be afraid to listen and seek advice from others. Even the biggest fool has something to offer.

*It takes twice as long to get productivity back, as it takes to lose it.

*Be flexible in your approach to all aspects.

*Good record keeping is essential.

*Be observant early, recognise the signs and do something about it quickly.

*Don't be afraid of gut feeling and to back your judgement.

*There's a wealth of information out there. Use it, but be wary of information overload.

*Seek the new technology, but don't forget the old and marry the two together.

*Production is paramount.

*Time the basics right – that's where the money is.

*If you are going bad, go back to basics.

*PS. Don't commit adultery, it could cost you half the farm.

Wool and Sheep Producer

Braeside was a unique wool producer both in the quality and quantity of its annual clip. Any shearer or even those of us who were privileged enough to share time classing the 2 ½ thousand ewe hogget's every year can testify.

On one such classing day... the cry went up, "Donny it was a cull yesterday, it's a cull today and it will be a bloody cull tomorrow, mark it out."

Don replied quietly, "He's talking about that black one... I reckon most of us could've picked that." (Of course, these textiles being kept apart for purposes of colouring with the appropriate dye.)

Sheep feeding was a huge task for Don, he called it "Meals on Wheels" and as he told Macca one Sunday morning, "I've got 14,000 followers." Not bad for a bloke with no social media.

Grain Producer

Private marketing of grains has also been pivotal to Braeside's added success and capital expenditure on silos, grain quality assessment tools, on-farm weigh bridge and traceability software, all contribute to a successful domestic marketing programme. Remembering, all sales in the domestic market before 1988, required a permit to sell outside of the statutory authorities.

R&I Bank Analysis

Don and Bobbie participated in the R & I Bank farm analysis group for many years under the supervision of Eric Nankivell. (Cranky Nanky.) The list of growers was completely anonymous of course, until one line had a very successful pig enterprise in it... another had a very successful clover enterprise in it. So, it was Don's mission to identify the owners of all the columns. It was actually a great time. If one participant was doing something really well, it was a privilege to seek their tuition. So, as you can see the spirit of the intent was to work with each other and conquer the broader sciences of our chosen field.

Braeside's capital equipment expenditure was identified as higher than most on a per hectare basis and was queried. The retort, "You don't think I'm going back to a Massey 65 with no cabin and no power steering, do you?"

Sharing of One's Life and Expertise

As many of you know, in 1997 Owen rejoined ABC radio in Albany and was looking for a mid-broadcast area weather report... Don readily volunteered to report in and did so for 18 years. His key meteorological device, as we have heard, was a compost tumbler. It became both infamous and famous depending on Frost or Dry/Drought. Wet or Moist. Rain/dew. In the years of 1980 and 2006 there were extended dry times, drought.

"It's so dry we've put the pot plants out on agistment."

Don was a life member of the RSPCA from 1972, and putting his hand up again to serve his broader Agricultural community was a board member from 2011 – 2014.

His quoted philosophy on nomination:

1. If you don't look after your animals, they will not look after you.
2. 98% of animal owners are the best animal liberationists – including farmers.
3. Ideology is fine but common sense must prevail.
4. Provide a rational approach to all animal issues.

Muelsing of merino sheep was an issue at the time and Don invited the entire RSPCA board to his farm, to view firsthand the practicality of what farmers do in the best interests of their animals. Providing food for thought for the board... on how farmers provide food for their fellow man.

Don served the Department of Agriculture of WA, on various committees from the 1960s to recent times.

Narrogin Agricultural College gratefully received Don's Advice via the Advisory Committee from 1985 through to 2020 when he retired. A period of 35 years. He also generously sponsored student achievement awards.

WA Farmers Federation member from the 1960s. A board member from 2006 – 2010 and continued on in an advisory capacity.

Golden Grower Awards. In 1997, Don and Bobbie won the National Wheat Cropping Awards being golden grower of the APW category, awarded for not only quality and quantity but also in the economics of the way in which it was produced. Travelled airline business class to Europe inspecting grain growing regions and tourist hot spots, as their reward.

In later years. they travelled most continents around the globe in search of broadening their knowledge and contacts in the food producing industry. Greenmount Travel out of Toowoomba, Queensland, was their trusted agent and many joyful experiences were had and numerous lifetime friendships made.

Handling Life's Challenges

Don lost his first wife, Bobbie, in a car accident on the 7th of June 2011, a devastating time, the day of his 65th birthday. Only to lose his son in law Wade, 3 years later. A particularly devastating time... hard to talk about... but also... impossible to leave out. He took comfort in his family, friends, farm and dogs.

Don carried on, and a new life opened up as he moved slowly forward and kept living. Forced change now brings new light to his path. He met Christine Vestey from Adelaide, their friendship developed and blossomed with Christine joining Don in Narrogin. Both had lost their partners, and both understood how each other felt. They married and built a new life together, with overseas travel on Greenmount tours, regulars to Busselton and visited friends all over our country.

Don with his new bride living in Narrogin, continued his travel out to Braeside almost every day until leasing the farm and visitation to the farm diminished...a little.

It was while visiting some of Don and Christine's friends near Wagga Wagga, NSW in August, where he spent time fencing a line out in the open air, helping a mate. He was soon to be admitted to Wagga Wagga Hospital, and a short time later Saint Vincent's in Sydney. He stoically fought against the pancreatitis for 5 weeks... life's timer had run out. Now...as we farewell our Don... loving husband, family man, sheep man, loyal friend, clover king and always a giving community member...may he find perfect rest... his work for the day is done.

Garden Snippets...



....CarryBagCompost

Lots of people have a garden but no compost heap or bin for recycling organic materials. Yet to throw out valuable organic matter such as lawn clippings, weeds and leaves is a terrible waste, when these items can be made into "gold" for your garden by simply making good use of small plastic garbage bags.

In essence, the technique involves producing small amounts of composed matter inside plastic bags. In days of old, this would mean using up all of those ubiquitous plastic shopping bags that seemed to mount up in number and have no use for, but since they are now banned, cheap rolls of recyclable small sized garbage bags will still do the trick, or better still are your empty potting mix bags that can be simply sealed by folding the ends over and securing with packaging tape.

After placing the "matter" inside the bags and closing the ends, the process is greatly hastened by the heat of the sun, and can be easily turned over from time to time.

Here's How:

1. Carry a roll of small plastic garbage bags, or empty potting mix bag, with you when you go into the garden
2. As you pull up the weeds, throw them into the bags. Grass clippings and leaves that are lying around can also be included.
3. As each bag is filled, tie the handles securely at the top.
4. Place the bags upside down in the corner of the garden somewhere, preferably in full sun. It is easy enough to turn them over from time to time to mix up the contents.
5. After 4 – 6 weeks the contents should have broken down enough to form organic matter that can be used as mulch, or dug into the garden.



WICKEPIN ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Church of St John the Evangelist

As delivered by Irene Moore on the occasion of the 100th year celebration of the Church

It is my privilege to share some history/memories of St John Anglican Church in Wickepin, thanks to the research of others, Father Ten Doncaster, AH Mutton, John Doncon, John Brown and those who have shared memories.

The town began as a watering point called Yarling (the name of a spring in the area). It is believed that the name Wickepin which is of Aboriginal origin, first recorded in 1881, however the meaning is not known. The area started to grow after the construction of the Great Southern Railway in 1889 when the land was opened up by the State Government in 1893, and the town developed, with the establishment in 1909 the Roads Board.

The railway was well established by 1910-11, and it was from this time that the Anglican Church was officially established in Wickepin.

In the first register I found, it records that in May 1911, the Rev JH Kittel as a rector, ministered in Wickepin. Interestingly, it appears that he had only attained the rank of Deacon at this time, as there is no record of Holy Communion Services being held. Also of interest, is the size of Church committee, which comprised of Mr W Downs, J Adams, AK Buckley, C. Sutherland, RA Hobson, E Fleay, R Snow, R Peters, E Winfield, F Waters (Secretary), A Stevenson (Treasurer), Mrs Downs, Peters, Waters, Adams and Miss Winfield.. sixteen in all.

From February 1912 to 1913, Mr JH Cooke took the services as a Lay Reader, and his family recall that a cross and collection plate were given as a memorial for his contributions.

From 1913 to 1922 the parish came under the Bush Brotherhood of St Boniface from Williams and services were held in the Road Board Hall.

The bush brotherhood was financed by a subsidy from England and they served as missionaries.

During this time the rectory and land was taken over from the Trustees by the Diocese. The Rectory was built in 1913, and most of the time when there was no resident priest, the rectory was leased out.

Before the arrival of the first resident priest, the people of Wickepin came together and made an exerted effort to build their Church. The building, a weatherboard and iron roofed Church stood and stands on Williams Location 1613 Lot 55, was completed in early 1922 and was consecrated by Bishop Wilson of Bunbury on 30th April 1922, in the presence of 150 parishioners.

The cost of the Church was 610 pounds (\$1,166.00), comprising of 30 pounds for organ, 47 pounds for furniture and 603 pounds for building, and what a wonderful day that would have been for the parishioners who had worked so hard to achieve this dream.

And so it is appropriate for us to remember our early pioneering parishioners, those who faithfully built this Church, and also those who through the next hundred years worked to keep the Church doors open, especially during the great depression and the two world wars. We especially remember the parish families known to have lost loved ones, the Hoyle, McCracken, Rich and Simpson families. Their loved ones are honoured on our honour board.

Today we make special note of welcome to our senior Church visitors in Joy Snow, Enid and Jim Rose, John Doncon, Ron and Marye McLean. Apologies and best wishes for our day come from Evie and Phillip Fleay, Bill and Mary Perry and Keith and Glen Doncon.

On the 1st May 1922 the first Eucharist was conducted in the new Church and the first baptism was the child of Dr Cook, who had donated the original baptismal font.

Then in January 1923 the Rev Percy Ferris was installed into office as the first rector of St John's Church at Wickepin, by the Archdeacon W Barbidge.

When Rev Ferris left in April 1924, The Bush Brotherhood once again ministered in Wickepin until Rev Walter Bushell became rector in 1927 and stayed until 1932. During these years he not only served St John's but travelled to Dudinin, Jitarning, Harrismith, East Wickepin, Karlgarin, Kondinin, Kulin, Yealering, Toolibin, Nomans lake, Comadyne and Elsinore.

He was truly a great man who served the Lord faithfully, and for the longest term of any resident Rector, and in 1939 the parishioners dedicated a prayer desk in memory of Rev Bushnell.

From 1935 – 1939 Wickepin St John's Church was attached to Kondinin, after which it again transferred back to Narrogin Parish.

On display, we have a list of Clergy who ministered in Wickepin and it is lovely to have Rev Lynda Myers with us today.

At the end of 1936 Bishop Wilson dedicated a new Church Bell, and many years as I can remember, we have had Murray Lang ringing the bells... so much so that when they are away we have had comments around town that they had missed the bells, so Murray we now remember to ring them in your absence.

In 1951 the boundaries were altered to have Harrismith, Toolibin and Wickepin included in the Narrogin Parish, and in 1956 the new altar was placed in the Church.

On the 9th August 1962, the old rectory was blessed as a Parish Centre by Bishop Hawkins. A wall had been removed between two rooms to create a serviceable functions room.

In 1975, the Church Block was surveyed and the land which held the rectory come function room was subdivided and sold to the Charles Rose family, and the buildings were demolished to make way for their retirement home and I remember Mrs Rose telling me that while Mr Rose was away during the war they resided in the rectory, and what a perfect place to retire, next door to the Church that meant so much to her, and what fond memories we have of making Christingles around her kitchen table and Phyliss Annie was never happier than when all the children came down from the tennis club for the Christingles carol service with Father George.

In 1979 the new porch was added to the Church and, followed in 1980, due to the generosity of Jim Rose, who allowed a Church cropping programme on his property, the Church was reclad with Aluminium and the roof retiled.

The Church Ladies Guild provided vital fellowship over the years for many of our early parishioner, they first met in the function room of the rectory, and moved to meeting in the Church's new porch area. We have no records of when it began, however they continued to meet until end of 2005, when records show that their bank accounts were closed. From 1968 to 1975, the Guild ran a very successful "ROSE SHOW" in the town hall, Judy Lang, one of the main organisers, remembers them being great days, and she has located the perpetual trophy that was awarded for the winning rose grower, you can check out the winners over lunch.

Marj remembers many great visiting guest speakers attending their meetings and also recalls how faithful the ladies were with fund raising stalls, flowers on Sundays, cleaning the Church and the brass. Special mention of Mrs Stella Hughes (who I might add lived some distance out of town) faithfully for many years cleaned the brass on her own until later in life she asked for some help, and a roster established. Today we are lucky to have Elaine and Cheryl who keep or brass shining.

For many years, the Wickepin Anglican Church ladies have catered for the sheep sales in Wickepin.

Lizzie Davies nee Brown remembers Sunday school being held on Friday afternoon, due to that being 'shopping day' for most people. In our collection of photos we have a picture of a Sunday class marked 1963 with Revd Jeff Beyer and Betty Brown as teachers. Mrs Brown used to pick up hot rolls from Baker Bills and Mrs Mac and also bring thermoses of hot soup during winter and lots of cold grapes in summer from their orchard.

Not all the children have been identified in the photo so if you can put names to any unidentified .. please place them in pad provided. This goes for baptisms, confirmations and weddings.

While delving through the Church Registers that I could locate, the earliest pre- Church weddings were
Florence M Reid – Simon P Barbay 1909 (Venue: residence of Mr Thomas Pauley)

Sarah J Joyner – Stanley R Lewis 1912 (Venue: Roads Board Hall)

Frances F. Orchard – Francis J. Heffernan 1914 (Venue: residence of Daniel J. Orchard)

First weddings conducted in the Church

Jean Fleay - Dawson Watts 1926

Mercia Watts - Leslie Fleay 1927

Hilda Lewis - Edward Heffernan 1939

First baptism pre Church: 1911 Jack Charles CONNOR Edna May SNOW

William Thomas TOWNSEND Stella Irene ROBINSON Hugh William ROBINSON

Lawrence Robert GRIEVES Doris Evelyn GRIEVES

1922 Geoffrey Roy ROSE, Peggy SAUNDERS, Elizabeth Ellen GRIFFITHS, Lorraine, William, David CRORKS,
Montague Scott TOWNSEND, Rose Irene HEMLEY, Ernest Charles HEMLEY, Lesley Alfred HEMLEY, Ralph
William ELSON, Maxwell GREEN

As we look around our Church today we can see many dedications to people who have contributed to our Church's history.

Time does not permit the full list and description of the dedications so please check out the full list on display.

In our sanctuary on the left and right we have our beautiful stain glass windows which were installed in 1998 99 dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of Charles and Phyllis Rose and Edward and Elfie Doncon.

And a plaque was installed to commemorate Mrs Leslie Doncon (Nee Adams) for her service to the Anglican Church. Leslie or Topsy as she was known, played the organ from 1946 until 1961. In 1954 she established and trained a boys choir, and later girls also joined, with up to 25 children participating. It is lovely to have some of you here today.

And we have the beautiful story of Topsy's mother, Hazel Adams was also the organist for Wickepin Anglican Church, and is reputed to be the instigator of fund raising to buy the first organ in the Church. Hazel was the organist for the wedding of Lesley Fleay and Mercia Watts in 1927. And then in 1957, when Mercia and Lesley's daughter Marjorie Fleay married Norman White, Lesley Doncon (nee Adams) was the organist.

Travel on to 1979 when Marjorie and Norm's daughter Dawn married Lou Tolomei, we have Topsy's daughter, Judy Lang (nee Doncon) at the organ. And again in 1986 Judy played for Robyn White when she married Ray Narducci.

That is three generations of mother /daughters as organists, and three generations of mother/daughters married in our St John's Anglican Church.

And we are blessed to have Judy still playing for our services, Judy remembers the encouragement she received when she first began playing for services. She also recalls that she has no memories of juggling playing for services with small children, as Mrs Enid Rose also played for many years.

In all the memorials it state "TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD" and that sums up the dedicated parishioners of our Church.. If in my human limitations, I have overlooked someone's service and it is easy to applaud those who stand out for their Christian ministry, while overlooking those who quietly go about God's work. But be assured, your work is honoured by God and indispensable to us all.

My fervent prayer is that St John's Anglican Church will continue for another 100 years or until our Lord returns, to shine the light of Jesus in the town of Wickepin,



Hon Mia DAVIES MLA
Member for Central Wheatbelt

MEDIA RELEASE

MIA'S LOCAL HERO GRANTS ROUND OPENS

13th October 2023

The latest round of '*Mia's Local Hero Grants*' has been opened to eligible groups and individuals living in the electorate of Central Wheatbelt.

It is the eighth round of the small grant funding program provided by Hon Mia Davies MLA.

"These small grants are designed to support groups and people in the electorate who work hard to support and inspire their community," Ms Davies said.

"This round of the program will provide amounts of up to \$200 for local groups who support and enrich our communities."

Ms Davies said the grants provided an opportunity to show her support, thanks and appreciation for the hardworking volunteer and not-for-profit organisations that make such a difference in our community.

"I encourage everyone that is eligible to make an application as it's hotly contested and there are many deserving projects, people and event in the electorate," Ms Davies said.

"The funds could be used to support or sponsor a local event, contribute toward the purchase of new equipment or materials, or to assist your group to better support your members or community.

"I'm looking forward to receiving the applications, and if anyone has concerns about their eligibility, they should contact my office."

Successful applicants from the previous round include bringing a qualified swim instructor to Mukinbudin for the Swimming Club, purchasing photography light display boxes for the Narembeen Historical Society and personal protective equipment for the Pingelly Youth Cadets.

"The funding also contributed to new trestles for the Nungarin Wheatbelt Markets as the Committee celebrated their 25th anniversary this year, new roller-skates for the Wylie Roller-skating team and a 'come and try day' for York & District Archery Club.

Round 8 opens Friday 13th October and closes at 4.00pm on Friday 10th Nov 2023.

For application forms email mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au or contact the electorate office directly on 9622 2871 (Northam) or 9041 1702 (Merredin).

For media enquiries please contact Mia Davies on 9041 1702 (Merredin office), 9622 2871 (Northam office) or email mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au.

mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au

MiaDaviesMLA facebook.com/MiaDaviesMLA
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THE NATIONALS *for Regional WA*

Do you find yourself struggling to manage your daily tasks, such as cleaning, gardening, meal preparation, grocery shopping, or transportation?

Are you reliant on assistance from loved ones or neighbors?

If you're 65 years or older and answered yes to either of these questions, you may be eligible for a federally funded home care package. This package empowers you to select the assistance that you need and who will provide it, offering both flexibility and independence.



Contact Wickepin CRC on 9888 1500 to learn more about how the Staying in Place program can help you to take charge of your life and receive the assistance you need to live independently.



**Wickepin
Community Resource Centre**
Your local connection



Meerilinga presents

CHILDREN'S WEEK™ WA 2023

FUEL TO GO & PLAY, TWIRL, & SPIN, HULA WORKSHOP

Last Friday to celebrate Children's Week over 30 children gathered at the Wickepin Oval to enjoy a hula hoop workshop. Led by a professional hula hoop dancer from Happy Health Hoops Perth. The children were taught techniques and tricks. The kids were enthusiastic and eager to learn, and seeing them having so much fun was heartwarming. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Children's Week and promote physical activity and creativity among the youth. We would like to thank Meerilinga, Healthway, Lotterywest, the Department of Communities, and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for supporting our event.



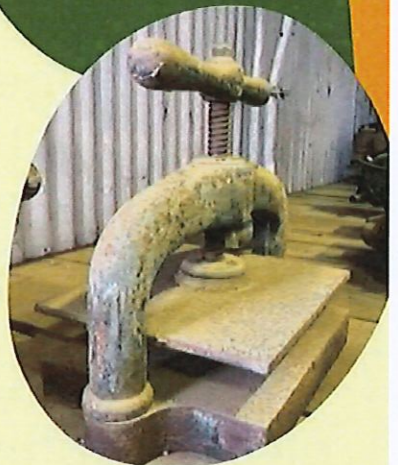
SENIORS WEEK WA

FREE EVENTS

Explore

**MONDAY 13TH NOV | 1 PM
TOOLSEUM RICHER STREET**

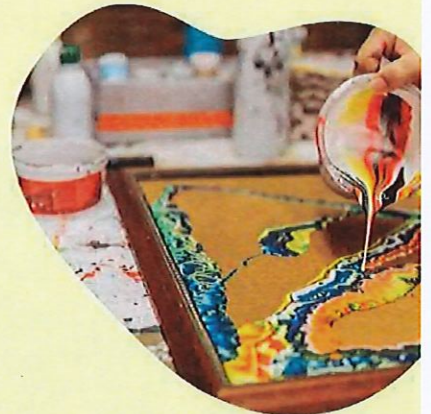
Explore the wonders of our Toolseum with a guided tour of the tools of yesteryear. Sausage sizzle and refreshments provided!



Create

**THURSDAY 16TH NOV | 1 PM
WICKEPIN CRC**

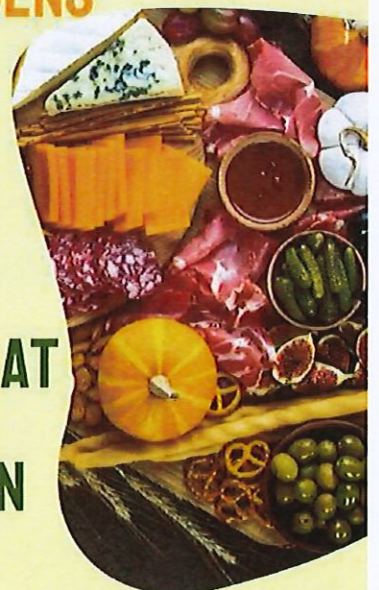
Create beautiful works of art at this fluid art workshop, join us to create your own hand painted flowerpots and canvas!



Enjoy

**FRIDAY 17TH NOV | 1 PM
THE FACEY HOMESTEAD GARDENS**

Enjoy a fabulous finale to the week, join us for a delicious long table alfresco lunch of cold meats, salads, sweets, and soft drinks!



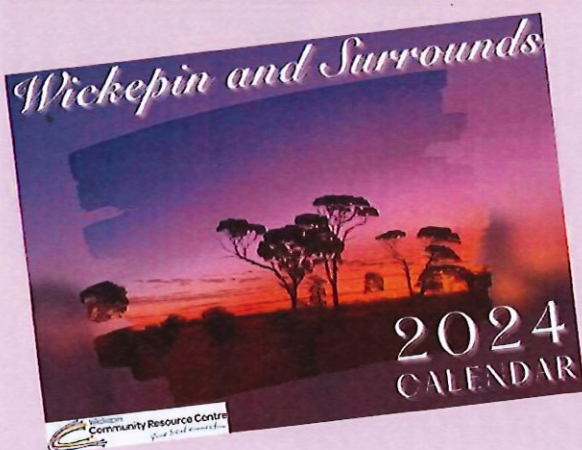
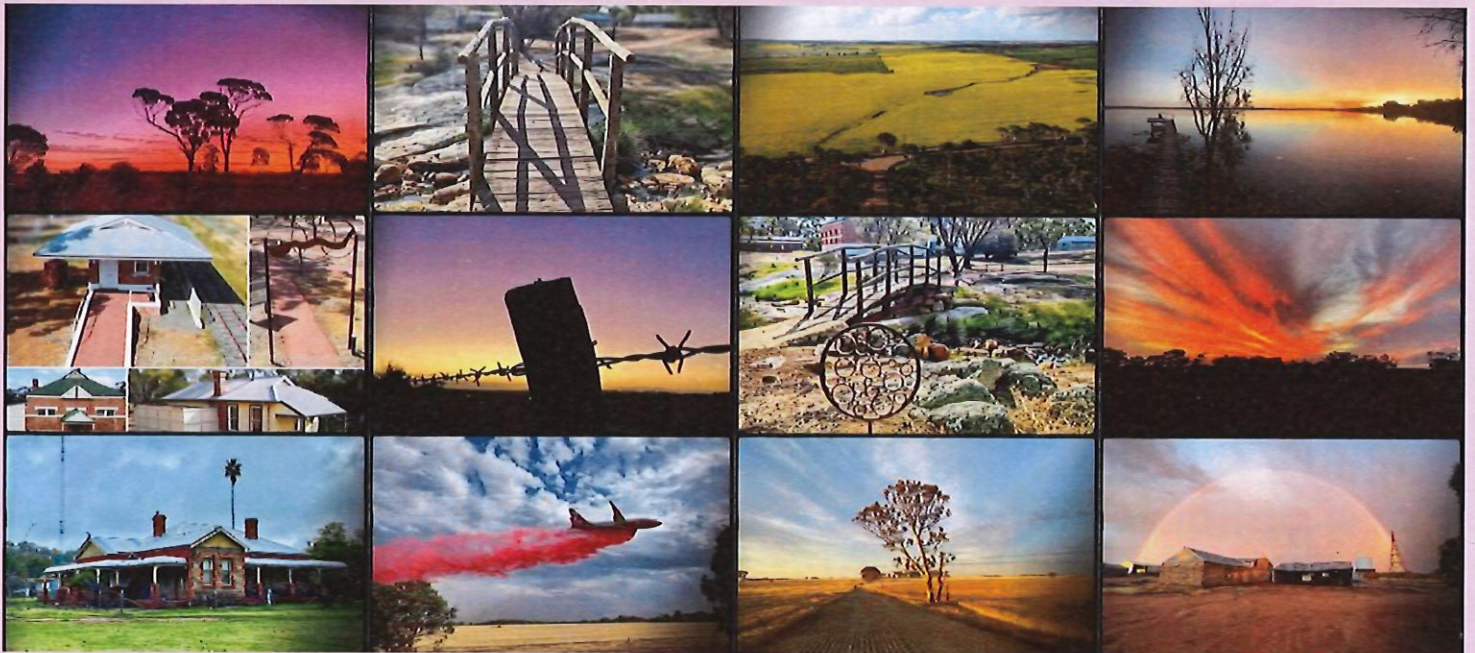
**DON'T MISS OUT! TO SECURE YOUR SPOT AT
ANY OF THESE FANTASTIC ACTIVITIES
KINDLY RSVP BY CONTACTING WICKEPIN
CRC ON 9888 1500**

Announcing the 2024 Calendar Photography Winners!

The votes are in and we are proud to present the 12 stunning photographs chosen to showcase our rich culture and stunning scenery. Let's give a round of applause to Mia Ewen, Kylah Leeson, Jade Leeson, Eliza Murray, Dixie Dougall, Dennis Bransby, Jillian Tilbrook, Roger Tilbrook, Darryl Gaull, and Lynda Gaull.

A special congratulations to Mia Ewen, whose beautiful sunset photo received the most votes and will be featured on the front cover.

We'd like to thank everyone who entered the contest, there were so many outstanding entries. We are grateful to those who voted and to the lucky winners of our prize draw, Barbra Thompson and Irene Moore.



Available now at
the CRC

\$15

KIDS CORNER

COLOUR ME ALL BRIGHT COLOURS





Easy Italian pasta salad

200g dried farfalle (bow-tie) pasta
 150g green beans
 1/4 cup bought basil pesto
 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves
 6 radishes, thinly sliced
 200g baby bocconcini

1/2 small radicchio
 lettuce, coarsely chopped
 200g tomato medley mix, sliced
 Garlic dressing
 100ml extra virgin olive oil
 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
 2 garlic cloves, bruised

To make the garlic dressing, place all the dressing ingredients in a jar and seal tightly. Shake until combined then season. Set aside to infuse.

Cook the pasta in a large saucepan of salted boiling water following packet directions or until al dente, adding the green beans in the last 3 minutes of cooking. Refresh under cold running water then drain well. Cut the beans in half lengthways.

Transfer the pasta to a large bowl. Add the pesto and oil. Toss until the pasta is well coated.

Arrange the pesto pasta down the centre of a 36cm oval serving platter. Arrange the basil, radish, bocconcini, radicchio, tomato and beans in rows on either side of the pasta.

Remove the garlic cloves from the dressing. Drizzle two-thirds of the dressing over the pasta salad and toss until combined. Divide among serving plates and serve with the remaining dressing on the side.

Protein-packed creamy chickpea salad

80g Danish feta, crumbled
 160g high-protein reduced-fat Greek-style yoghurt
 1 tbsp white balsamic vinegar
 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
 2 x 400g cans no-added-salt chickpeas, rinsed, drained
 1/2 small red onion, finely chopped
 3 celery sticks, finely chopped
 1 red capsicum, deseeded, finely chopped
 1 large Lebanese cucumber, quartered, thinly sliced
 1/4 cup sultanas

Chopped fresh continental parsley leaves, to serve (optional)

Place feta, yoghurt, balsamic and lemon juice in a small food processor and process until smooth and creamy.

Place chickpeas, onion, celery, capsicum, cucumber and sultanas in a large bowl. Add dressing and gently toss until combined. Season. Serve sprinkled with parsley, if using.



Tabouli

3/4 cup burghul
 4 roma tomatoes, deseeded, finely chopped
 1 large Lebanese cucumber, finely chopped
 4 radishes, halved, thinly sliced
 1 cup coarsely chopped fresh continental parsley leaves
 1 cup coarsely chopped fresh mint leaves
 1 lemon, rind finely grated, juiced
 1 1/2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil 1/2 tsp honey
 1 tbsp sunflower seeds, toasted

Place burghul in a heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water. Set aside for 20 minutes or until softened. Rinse under cold running water. Drain, pressing out excess water with a metal spoon.

Combine burghul, tomato, cucumber, radish, parsley and mint in a large bowl.

Whisk together lemon rind and juice, oil and honey in a small bowl. Drizzle dressing over salad and gently toss until combined. Season. Serve sprinkled with sunflower seeds.



FACEY GROUP UPDATE

Grain legumes are benefitting next winter's crop.

Some visual differences are starting to show at the Facey Group Grain Legume site. Last year this site had various legumes including vetch, peas, chickpeas, and faba beans at two different sowing times. Two plots of wheat were also sown in the trial last year.

This year all plots were sown over with a cereal and some visual differences have been observed between the plots. The cereal that has been sown onto a legume plot looks great compared to the cereal on cereal plots with a visual difference in biomass and colour.



With the help of GGA and GRDC, the Facey Group would like to continue to support you in learning more about what legumes work in the area, but we need your help and guidance on what we should do next in this space. **Scan the QR code and give us some feedback on what you want to see.**

Spring Cover Crop

The new plot seeder is out of the shed and getting put to good use to seed the Spring Cover Crop Trial as part of the GRDC RiskWise projects. The aim is to investigate whether summer crops can fix atmospheric nitrogen and utilise spring and summer rainfall to improve soil health and increase yield in the following seasons of winter crop.

The spring cover crop was sown on 3rd October with an average volumetric soil moisture of 9% in the first 0-10cm. Even with a hot, dry October and no follow-up rain, the team is excited to see several varieties have germinated! These include Lab Lab, Cow Pea, Sun Hemp, Sunflower, Sudan Grass, and a summer variety mix. The trial has both mono and



Thank you to everyone who helped get this trial underway, sharing their knowledge and ideas on what they wanted to see in this trial. Special thanks to our host farmer Caen Taylor, Alosca for peat, Barenbrug Seed for seed & Summit Fertilizers for fertilizer.



FACEY GROUP

Shaping the Future

2023 Annual General Meeting & Post Harvest Bash

20th December 2023 @ 6pm
Wickepin Community Centre

Facey Group Members & Valued Sponsors are invited to attend the Facey Group 2023 Annual General Meeting which will commence at 6:00pm.

Audited Finance Report for the 22/23 FY to be presented.

Following the AGM, Facey Group will provide delicious food, cold refreshments and kids entertainment for our members and their families as we celebrate the year that was and the upcoming festive season.

Please scan the QR Code to RSVP for catering purposes or visit <https://events.humanitix.com/facey-group-agm-and-xmas-party>



2023 PHOTO COMPETITION



FARMING & FAMILY

MONTHLY WINNERS

recieve a \$25 Coles/Myer
Voucher & will feature in our
2024 calendar.

ENTRIES CLOSE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH

THE RULES

- Photos are to be submitted via email to: comms@faceygroup.org.au
- 2 photos per month may be entered into the competition per person.
- Judging will be completed by a member of the Facey Group Committee and a Facey Group staff member.
- Entry into the competition includes permission for the Facey Group to use images in future publications and media.
- Competition will run from 1st Dec 22 till 30th Nov 23
- Camera, mobile phone and drone images all welcome.
- Winners will be announced monthly via social media.



Central Agcare

COUNSELLING

Free, confidential counselling services are available to all. We offer counselling to all age groups from 5 years of age.

Face to face counselling or by phone servicing the Corrigin, Bruce Rock, Narembeen, Kulin, Kondinin, Hyden, Quairading, Brookton, Pingelly, Cuballing & Wickepin areas.

Sand play and Art Therapy is available for children at the Corrigin office.

We are qualified Family Counsellors who can help individuals, couples and families negotiate their way through distressing experiences and bring understanding to them such as:

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Depression

Life changes (physical & mental)

Abuse (past and present)

Loss and grief and

Relationship issues (home & work)

We are here to help.

Contact our Counsellors:

Joyce Contos: 0428 891 244

Anne Hague: 0427 133 711

Email: ceagcare@bigpond.com



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REGIONAL COLUMN

www.dmirs.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au

11 October 2023

With Senior Regional Officer for the South West, Annetta Bellingeri

Your rights on cancelled flights

Ask any traveller about their top travel peeves and cancelled or delayed flights are likely to feature highly on the list, given their potential to throw holiday plans and itineraries into turmoil.

Flight cancellations and delays are among the most complained about issues to Consumer Protection – in the 2022/23 financial year, we received 530 complaints about flights being cancelled and 47 complaints about them being delayed.

When your own travel plans are disrupted, it's always best to contact the airline or your travel agent in the first instance to request a resolution. If that fails, consumers may come to us for help with negotiating a fair outcome under Australian Consumer Law through our conciliation service.

In one recent case, our conciliation service was able to successfully organise a \$21,222 refund for a family who had little option but to buy business class tickets to return home to Perth after their initial flights were cancelled by the airline. Another recent success story involved a \$2,000 refund from an airline that had stopped responding to the consumer's communications after cancelling their flights.

When it comes to your own travel disruptions, your right to a remedy will depend on which party made the cancellation and why.

If the airline cancels, they may offer a refund or another remedy, such as rescheduling your flights without penalty, or – if none are available in a reasonable time – reimbursing you the cost of booking replacement flights with another airline.

Passengers may not be entitled to a refund if they miss their flight or change their mind and an airline's obligations may not apply if reasons are outside their control, like bad weather.

Cancelled flights have been in the spotlight recently, after the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) launched legal action alleging Qantas Airways had engaged in false, misleading or deceptive conduct by advertising tickets for more than 8,000 flights it had already cancelled but not removed from sale.

The ACCC's Federal Court case concerns Qantas flights sold between 1 May 2022 and 31 July 2022 and the national consumer affairs regulator is hoping affected consumers will share their experience via an [online survey](https://consultation.accc.gov.au) at <https://consultation.accc.gov.au>.

If you are struggling to reach a suitable outcome with an airline over a cancelled or delayed flight, lodge a complaint on our [website](http://www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au) at www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au or contact 1300 30 40 54 or consumer@dmirs.wa.gov.au



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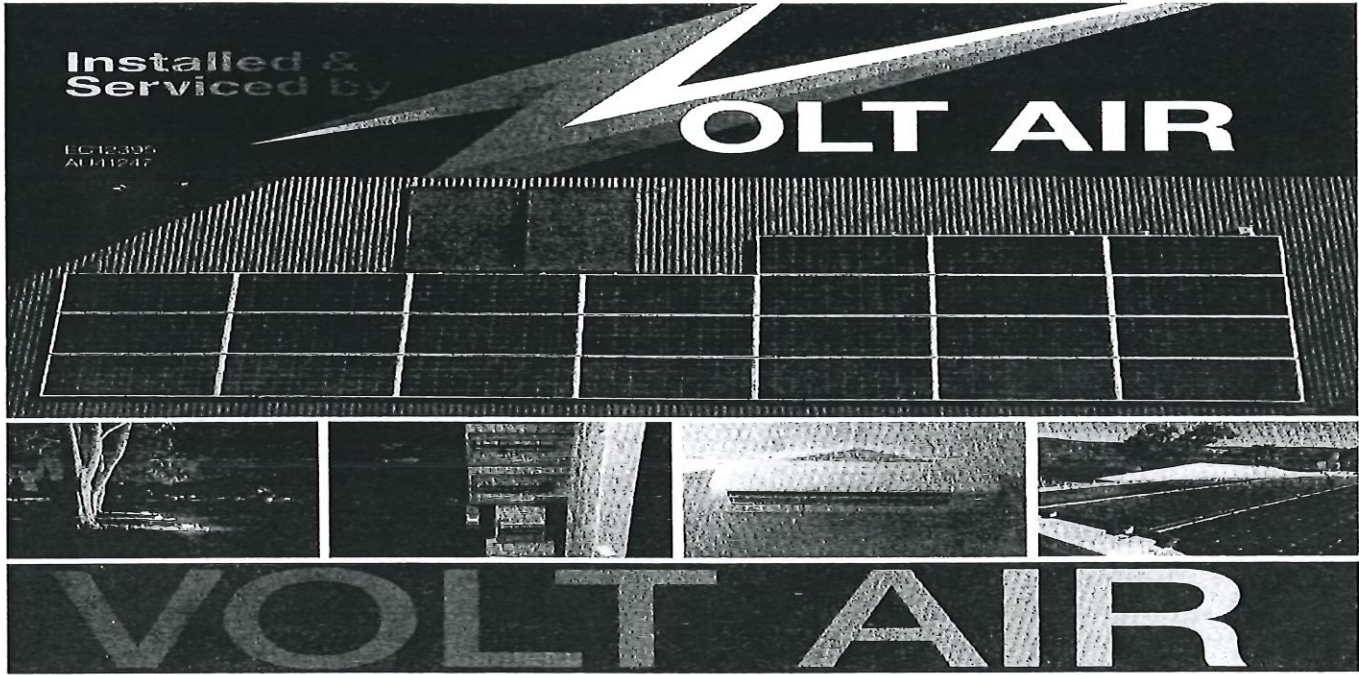
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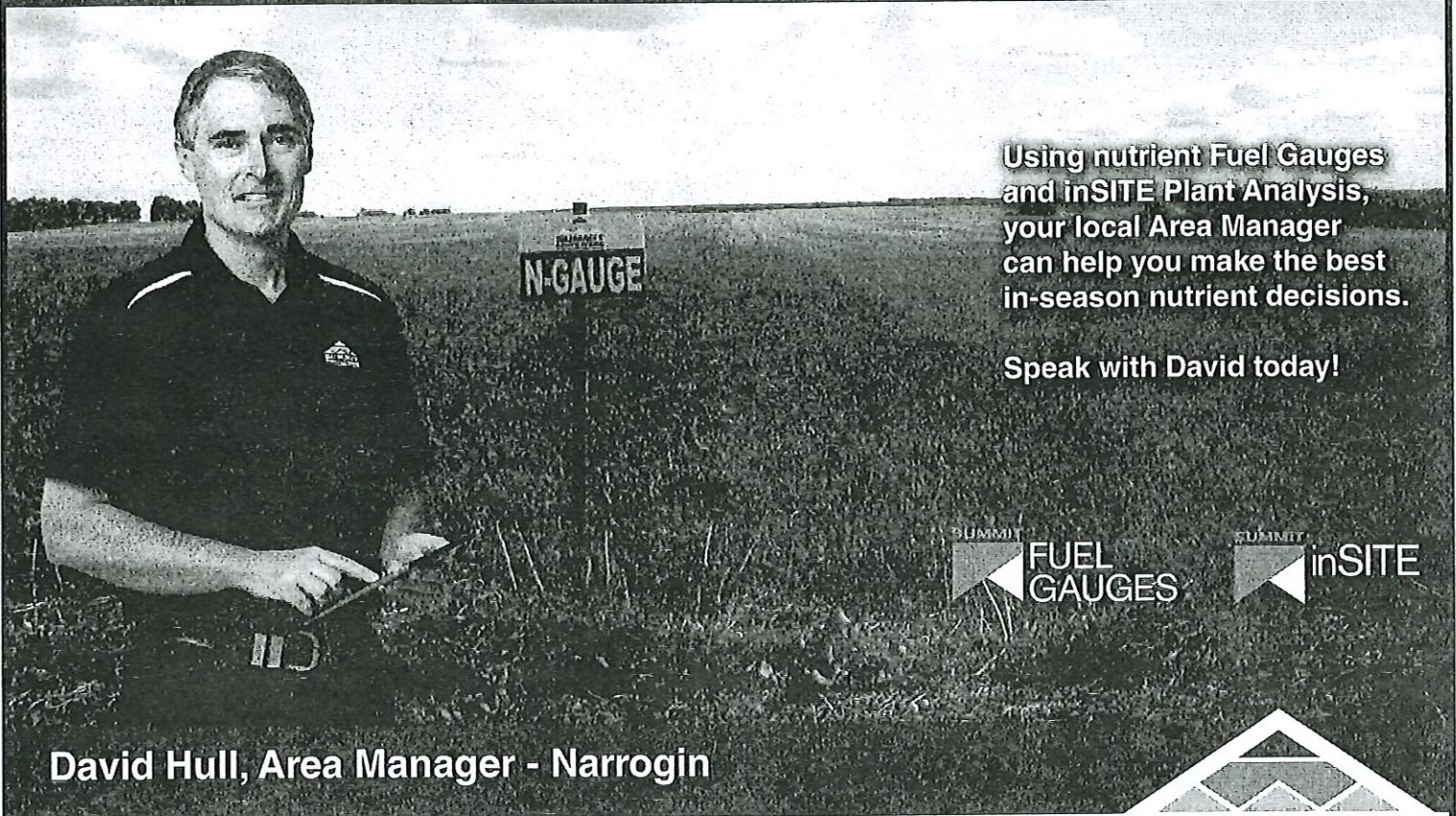
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Speak with David today!



David Hull, Area Manager - Narrogin

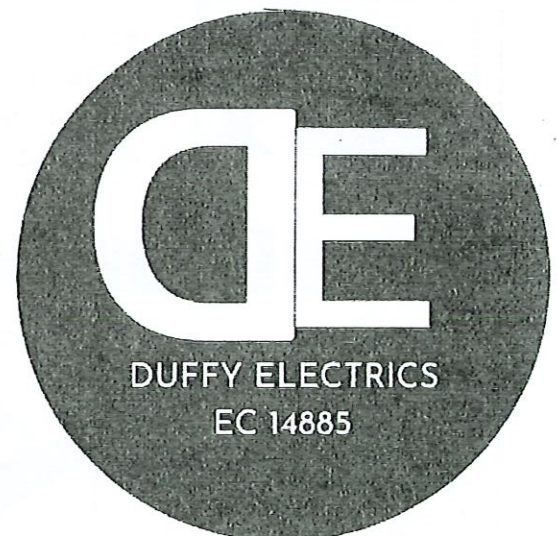
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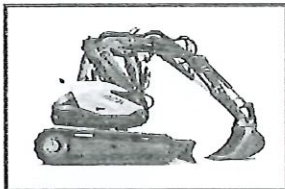
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To advertise any item in the Watershed Classifieds is free for two weeks,
so send in your ads!
Email your ads to watershed@wn.com.au, drop them at the Community Resource Centre or fax to 9888 1588

Halloween Word Search

C	O	A	I	O	E	I	Q	A	I	I	I	P	E	U
S	P	N	Q	Q	N	U	J	W	Y	T	L	G	L	P
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Fun
Costume
Mummy
October
Halloween
Goblin

Trick
Ghost
Monster
Witches
Pumpkin
Treat



Watershed News 2023 Publication Dates

Monday 13th November
Monday 27th November

Last Edition for 2023
Monday 11th December

WICKEPIN TENNIS CLUB

SunSmart Junior Tennis Coaching

Delivered by: Tennis Australia Coach Megan Henry

MONDAY Afternoon's:

6th, 13th, 20th November 2023

Three sessions in the lead up to the
Wickepin Junior Tournament on Sat 25th Nov

RED Stage: Age 5-8 | 4:00 - 4:45 PM

Age 8 -9 | 4:45 - 5:30 PM

GREEN Stage: Age 9 - 12 | 5:30 - 6:15 PM

COST: \$30 Members | \$60 Non Members

DIRECT CREDIT WICKEPIN Tennis Club

BSB: 066 522 ACC: 100 40207

JUNIOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP is \$22.00



Please Register with Junior Co-ordinator: Steffie Green 0428 144 802

Once registered, CLICK on the below link to unlock your FREE Hot Shots t-shirt:

<https://hotshots.tennis.com.au/already-playing/>



WICKEPIN TENNIS CLUB

Ladies Hit and Graze

The Wickepin Tennis Club held a very successful SunSmart Wickepin Ladies Hit and Graze on Saturday 21st October with 24 ladies of all ages & abilities coming together from Wickepin, Williams, Toolibin, Perth, Yealering & Narrogin. The afternoon commenced with the dynamic TA Coach Megan Henry warming everyone up with a fun Cardio Tennis session before the tournament kicked off- a Fast 4 format in teams of 4 with the day finishing up with delicious food & drinks.

Well done to the Winning team Team Veuve- Hilary, Nicki, Renae & Stacey and the runners up Team Chandon-Rhi, Kate, Alyce & Eleanor. Megan sponsored the Best Dressed Pair Prize won by stylish Jo & Michelle.

A big thankyou to all our amazing Sponsors – Sunsmart, Wickepin Shire, CSBP and Hon. Steve Martin and the businesses that generously donated to the day & raffle- Narrogin Nursery & Café, J & D Lifestyle, Cactus Hare, Fit Pursuit, Belvedere Nursery, Wickepin Newsagency & Cafe, The Remedy Pilates & Physio, Early Street Physio and Ewen Rural Supplies. Thank you to all the Tennis Club members that contributed to the day.

Rainfall registered at the Wickepin Post Office

2022	mm	Days	Total	2023	mm	Days	Total
January	0.0	0	0.0	January	3.4	2	3.4
February	5.0	1	5.0	February	0.8	1	4.2
March	20.8	6	25.8	March	37.4	3	41.6
April	15.0	4	40.8	April	83.2	8	124.8
May	43.6	6	84.4	May	5.0	3	129.8
June	60.2	8	144.6	June	74.8	10	204.6
July	53.8	12	198.4	July	32.2	13	236.8
August	79.2	11	277.6	August	38.6	5	275.4
September	35.8	10	313.4	September	28.4	4	303.8
October	30.0	7	343.4	October	0.0	0	303.8
November	6.2	4	349.6	November			
December	0.4	1	350.0	December			

As of 30th October 2023

WICKEPIN BOWLING CLUB

12 people played Scroungers on Sunday 22nd with Robyn Mullan finishing Queen of the Green, while the Winners & Grinners on Sunday 29th were Lloyd Arundel & Leanne Smith. Please note that the Captains day has been rescheduled to next Sunday, 5th November.

The bowls Calendar is certainly full as we endeavour to support the events organised by other clubs. Our ladies recently attended the Narrogin Gala Day and I do believe that Quairading, Pingelly, Narembeen, Corrigin, Collie, and Brookton are also on their radar. Good bowling to the 4 teams playing in the Coral Weir Pairs at Williams this Tuesday.

A team of four men travelled to Corrigin this Sunday and by all accounts they enjoyed a fun day of bowls. Round 4 of the Men's Pennant was won by Brookton Green and on Saturday 4th, Pingelly Blue play at Wickepin in Round 5. Teams are Greg, Chris, Ted, Salty; Donk, Warren, Rex, Bob; Dave, Bevan, Peter, Alan. Please advise ASAP if you are unavailable. Afternoon tea/kitchen roster for 4th November is Marj White.

A reminder that 11th November is a home game against Narrogin Gold for Round 6, and on Sunday 12th, we play round 7 in Williams. Afternoon tea/kitchen roster for 11th November is Leanne Smith.

SOCIAL EVENTS - NOVEMBER

05.11.23	12.30 FOR 1PM START	CAPTAINS SPONSORED
12.11.23	12.30 FOR 1PM START	SOCIAL
19.11.23	12.30 FOR 1PM START	SPONSORED SINGLES 50+

HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOUR BOWLS

WICKEPIN FOOTBALL CLUB (Upper Great Southern Football League)



League Coach and Reserve Coach

Applications are invited for both the positions of League and Reserve Coach for the 2024 season.

The successful applicants will need to have excellent playing, training and social qualities, the ability to lead by example, have good communication skills, the ability to work within a team and a desire to be successful.

Applications/enquiries should be made to:

Graeme Manton (President)

0429 887 067

Wickepinc@live.com.au

PO BOX 125 WICKEPIN WA 6370

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Tues 31st Halloween

NOVEMBER

Wed 1st Prohibited Burning Period brought forward to 1st Nov until 7th Feb 2024

Wed 1st Swimming Pool opens 1-6pm

Fri 3rd School Development Day Wickepin Primary School—Students do not attend

Wed 8th Wickepin Netball Club AGM @ Wickepin Community Centre 6pm

Wed 8th Wickepin Primary School Whole School Student Council Assembly

Fri 10th Mia's Local Hero Grants close

Fri 10th 60 years of service by Astbury Family Afternoon Tea 2pm Wickepin Community Centre

Mon 13th Watershed News

Mon 13th Recycling and Bin Day

Mon 13th Explore Toolseum, Richter Street, 1pm Seniors Week WA

Wed 15th Ordinary Meeting of Council

Thurs 16th Fluid Art Workshop Wickepin CRC 1pm Seniors Week WA

Fri 17th Long Table Alfresco Lunch @ The Facey Homestead gardens @ 1pm Seniors Week WA

Mon 27th Next due date for Rates Instalments

Mon 27th Watershed News

Mon 27th Recycling and Bin Day

DECEMBER

Fri 1st Seniors' Christmas Lunch @ Wickepin Community Centre 11.30am

Tues 6th Wickepin Primary School Presentation & Graduation Night 5.30pm

Mon 11th Watershed News—Last edition for 2023

Mon 11th Recycling and Bin Day

Thurs 14th School Term 4 Ends

Wed 20th Facey Group AGM and Post Harvest Bash 6pm @ Wickepin Community Centre

Mon 25th Christmas Day

Tues 26th Boxing Day

Sun 31st New Years Eve

JANUARY 2024

Mon 1st New Years Day

FEBRUARY

Mon 5th Watershed News—First edition for 2024

Mon 5th Recycle and Bin Day

Sat 24th Ignite Wicky presents Wickepin Festival and Wickepin Car Rally

Mon 19th Watershed News

Mon 19th Recycle and Bin Day