



MARCH 2026



# THE HIGHLIGHTS

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER ADDRESS  
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## WORDS FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the March edition of **Wongi** – the year is certainly flying by!

We're pleased to introduce a new feature in the newsletter: **a summary of key decisions from each monthly Council meeting**, so the community can stay informed and engaged with what's happening at the Shire.

### Council Meetings – What's New

Starting in April, Council will be introducing a public briefing and agenda review session:

- **4:00pm** – Briefing & Agenda Review (open to the public)
- **5:00pm** – Ordinary Council Meeting

All community members are warmly invited to attend both sessions. Agendas will be published on the Shire website ahead of time.

### Council Meeting Summary

#### Meeting held: 17 March 2025

At the March Council Meeting, the following key decisions were made:

#### New & Updated Policies

- **New Policy – Information Sessions**

This policy formalises how Councillors receive information and briefings, including the introduction of the new monthly public briefing & agenda review sessions held prior to Council meetings.

- **New Policy – Recording of Council Meetings**

This policy formalises existing requirements for Council meetings to be audio recorded and published on the Shire website.

- **Amendment – Code of Conduct**

Updates were made to the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates to:

- Recognise the new role of the Local Government Inspector
- Clarify decision-making responsibilities for behaviour breach complaints



# SHIRE NOTES

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## Financial Update

- **Mid-Year Budget Review**

The Shire adopted a balanced 2025/26 Annual Budget with no carry forward.

The Mid-Year Review forecasts a modest surplus of \$49,000 at the end of the financial year.

A detailed report is available in the agenda attachments on the website.

## Planning & Development

- **Development Approval Granted**

A proposed Tree Farm for Carbon Sequestration was approved, subject to conditions.

## Governance & Regional Matters

- **Local Government Electoral Reform**

Feedback was provided to WALGA regarding:

- Compulsory vs voluntary voting
- Election frequency (4-year terms vs the current 2-year cycle)

- **Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Model**

Council authorised the CEO to work with six Great Southern local governments to negotiate a revised model where two local governments share a CESM, replacing the current three-council arrangement.

## More Information

Agendas, attachments, and minutes are available on the Shire website:

<https://www.woodanilling.wa.gov.au/2026-agendas-and-minutes.aspx>

## Next Council Meeting

### Tuesday 21 April

- **4:00pm** – Briefing & Agenda Review
- **5:00pm** – Ordinary Council Meeting

All are welcome to attend.

# SHIRE NOTES

## Community Plans in Progress

Work continues on the Shire's **first Public Health Plan**. Thank you to everyone who completed the recent survey – your feedback will play a vital role in shaping the plan.

Survey responses from the **Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)** consultation will also be used to review and update this important plan.

## Works & Infrastructure Update

The Shire's **major capital roads program** is now underway:

- Contracted works currently in progress on **Robinson Road West**
- Works will then move to **Oxley Road**
- Targeted resheeting has been completed on **Douglas Road**
- Similar works are planned for **Darby Road** and **Church Road**

## Save the Date – Woodanilling Arts Exhibition

Planning will soon commence for the **annual Woodanilling Arts Exhibition**, to be held over the weekend of:

### Friday 11 September

This much-loved event showcases the incredible talent within our community. We encourage all artists – both well-known and emerging – to consider participating.

Russel Thomson  
Shire President



Anika Serer  
Chief Executive Officer



# SHIRE NOTES



Shire of Woodanilling

## MEDIA RELEASE

**1 April 2026**

### **CEO Announces Resignation from Shire of Woodanilling**

The Shire of Woodanilling advises that Chief Executive Officer, Ms Anika Serer, has formally tendered her resignation and will conclude her role at the end of June 2026.

Ms Serer has served as CEO of the Shire with absolute dedication and professionalism, providing strong leadership and strategic direction during her tenure. The Shire thanks Ms Serer for her contribution to the organisation and the local community.

Shire President Russel Thomson acknowledged Ms Serer's service, stating:

"On behalf of Council and staff, I thank Anika for her commitment and leadership during her time with the Shire of Woodanilling. She has worked diligently to support Council and advance the organisation's strategic objectives. We wish her every success in her future endeavours."

Ms Serer will continue in her role through to the end of June to ensure a smooth transition. Council has commenced the process to undertake recruitment for a permanent appointment.

Further updates will be provided as arrangements are confirmed.

# SHIRE NOTES

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## COMMUNITY WATCH

Ideally, we would like Woodanilling to be a welcoming, safe and secure place for everyone. Especially leading into the Holidays. As a community we can improve our personal safety and household security by reporting suspicious behaviour and sharing information that helps build awareness. We strongly encourage reporting of crime or suspicious activity in your area to Police or Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers—1800 333 000

You can report information about criminal activity to the Crime Stoppers hotline or visit [www.wa.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.wa.crimestoppers.com.au) to report online.

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## EASTER CLOSURE

The Shire of Woodanilling Administration Office will be closed on Friday, 3 April, and will remain closed on Monday, 6 April and Tuesday, 7 April for the Easter period. The office will re-open on Wednesday, 8 April 2026. An additional closure will occur on Monday, 27 April 2026 for the ANZAC Day public holiday.

The Works Depot will resume normal operating hours from Thursday, 9 April 2026. The Depot will also be closed on Monday, 27 April and Tuesday, 28 April, and will resume normal operations from Wednesday, 29 April 2026. Tip hours will not change.

The Shire thanks the community for its patience and understanding and wishes everyone a safe and restful Easter and ANZAC Day period.



## EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION

Small earthquake swarms have been happening across the region for many years including the ones that occurred back in 2018 at Lake Muir, 2022 Arthur River and currently the Gnowangerup swarm.

Earthquakes detected by Geoscience Australia will automatically appear on the Emergency WA website and app. If you have watch zones set up in your app you'll receive alerts directly to your mobile device showing the location, magnitude and depth of the earthquake.

### **During An Earthquake**

- If indoors – Follow the DROP, COVER, HOLD ON sequence and stay indoors until the earthquake has stopped. Cover your head and neck with your arms and shelter under a sturdy desk or table. If there isn't safe shelter nearby, crouch alongside a bench or an inside wall. Hold onto your shelter and be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.
- If outside – Follow the DROP, COVER, HOLD ON sequence, but check your surroundings to stay away from windows, overhead structures, awnings, concrete fencing, bridges, power lines, trees etc.
- If driving – Park in a safe place and stay inside your car until the shaking stops. Avoid stopping close to power lines, and other hazards. When safe, continue your route giving way to emergency vehicles. If power lines fall on your vehicle stay inside until a trained person removes the wires.

### **After an Earthquake**

- Stay at home if there is no indication of damage to the building. Open a door to secure an exit.
  - Evacuate the building only if walls, ceiling or roof have visible damage. Take your emergency kit.
  - If its nighttime use a torch instead of a naked flame.
  - Shut off gas bottles and power if there is potential damage to lines or pipes
  - Check on neighbours
  - If you have a life threatening situation, call Triple 000
  - Stay informed through official information sources Emergency WA App, radio, TV, or other methods available at the time. Use a portable battery radio that should be in your emergency kit.
  - Contact family and friends using text messages. Avoid using the telephone calls for non-essential and non-emergency calls, as this could overload telephone lines.
  - If you need help to remove debris to make the area safe, call the SES 132 500.
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# SHIRE NOTES

## After an Earthquake

- Be aware calls are prioritised first to assist those most in need, so it may take several hours or days before assistance can arrive.
- Contact your insurance company to report any damage or loss as soon as possible. Check with them before entering a contract with cleaning or repair contractors to avoid additional costs.
- If your property is a heritage protected building check with your Local Government to determine if any heritage approvals are needed before repair work can be undertaken.

Further information can be located on the following link or a paper copy of information can be picked up from the Shire office <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/earthquake>

Geoscience - [Earthquakes@GA](mailto:Earthquakes@GA)



# SHIRE NOTES

## 2026 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Woodanilling Shire wishes to advise the following dates for the 2026 Ordinary Meetings of Council starting at 5pm

17 February 2026

17 March 2026

21 April 2026

19 May 2026

16 June 2026

21 July 2026

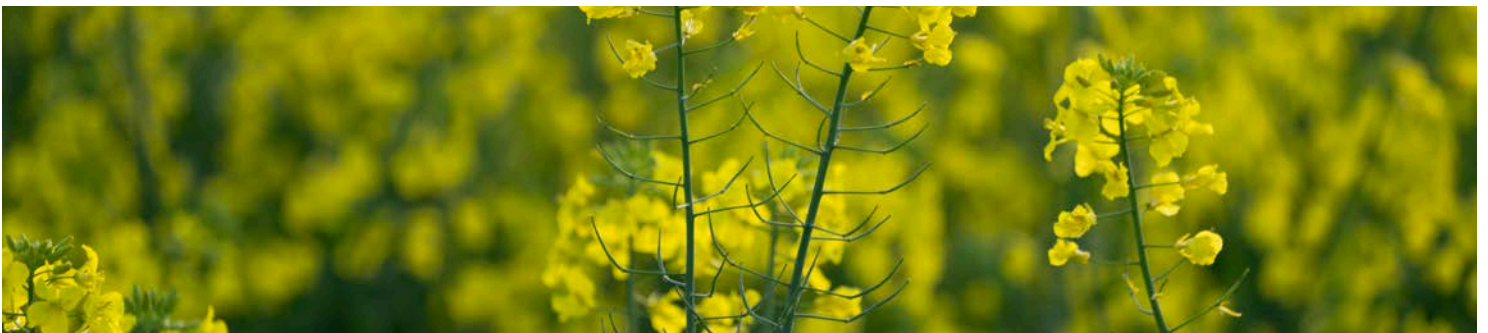
18 August 2026

15 September 2026

20 October 2026

17 November 2026

15 December 2026



# SHIRE NOTES



## Maintaining Smoke Alarms



### Once a month

Press the test button on your smoke alarm for up to 10 seconds until you hear the alarm sound. If the alarm does not sound, try putting in a different battery or replace the smoke alarm.

### Every year

#### Clean your smoke alarms

Use a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush to gently clean dust and dirt from your smoke alarm.

Cleaning your smoke alarm helps stop false alarms and makes sure smoke can reach the sensor.

### Replace the battery every year, if needed

All smoke alarms have batteries, even smoke alarms connected to mains power.

Replace the battery in smoke alarms that use a 9-volt alkaline battery. Smoke alarms with a non-removable lithium battery will have a warning label saying not to replace the battery.

If you're unsure about the battery type, ask the smoke alarm manufacturer.

### Every 10 years

#### Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years

Smoke alarms do not last forever. Their sensitivity decreases over time, making them unreliable. Replace them every 10 years.



Test your alarms once a month.



Clean your smoke alarms every year.



Replace the battery every year, if needed.



Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years.

# SHIRE NOTES



## How do I change a battery?

### 1. Identify what type of alarm you have

All smoke alarms come with batteries. Even those connected to the mains power have a back-up battery for power outages.

The battery could be a non-removable lithium battery that lasts the entire 10-year life of the alarm. This means you don't need to replace the battery every year.

Alternatively, the battery could be a replaceable 9-volt alkaline battery.

Smoke alarms with a 10-year non-removable lithium battery will have a warning label stating the battery is not to be replaced.

### 2. Turn off the mains power (for mains-powered alarms)

Turn off the mains power at your meter box (fuse box) before changing the battery in a mains-powered alarm. The green light on the alarm will go out and the red light will flash.

### 3. Remove the smoke alarm from its base

Smoke alarms are attached to the ceiling with a base. To remove the alarm, you might need to press a button, twist and pull, or slide it off. Check the manufacturer's instructions for your model.

### 4. Replace the old battery

If you can take out the batteries, change them once a year.

### 5. Turn on the mains power (for mains-powered alarms)

Turn on the mains power at your meter box (fuse box). The green light on the alarm will come back on.

### 6. Test the smoke alarm

Test the smoke alarm again, by pressing the test button until you hear the alarm sound. If you do not hear the alarm sound, try putting in a different battery or replace the smoke alarm.



Mains-powered smoke alarm



10-year lithium battery alarm



9-volt alkaline battery smoke alarm

# SHIRE NOTES

## What do I do if my smoke alarm is beeping?

If your smoke alarm beeps, it needs maintenance or replacement. Don't ignore it.

### Contaminated detection chamber

Dust and cobwebs can make smoke alarms beep by blocking sensors or affecting the battery connections.

Use a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush to gently clean dust and dirt from your smoke alarm.

### Low power

#### 10-year lithium battery models

If the alarm beeps about once per minute and the red light flashes, the lithium battery is low, and you need to replace the smoke alarm.

#### 9-volt alkaline battery models

When the battery is low, the smoke alarm beeps and red light flashes about once every 30 to 60 seconds. Replace the battery and then press the test button to ensure the smoke alarm is functioning properly.

Replace the battery once a year for best results.

#### Mains-powered smoke alarms with a 10-year lithium rechargeable back-up battery

If the alarm beeps and red light flashes every 30 to 60 seconds, the battery back-up is low.

First, check and reset the circuit breaker in your home. Then check the indicators again. If you're unsure, contact a licensed electrician.

The alarm may beep after a power outage if the battery is low. Once power is restored, the beeping should stop within 2 hours as the battery recharges. If the beeping continues after 2 hours with the green light on, contact the smoke alarm manufacturer for assistance.

#### Mains-powered smoke alarms with a 9-volt alkaline battery back up

Replace the backup battery when the smoke alarm beeps and red light flashes about once every 30 to 60 seconds. Check the manufacturer's instructions for the right battery type. Use high-quality, long-lasting batteries.

### When to replace smoke alarms

If your smoke alarm continues to beep after cleaning and replacing the battery, it's likely faulty or too old and needs to be replaced.

All smoke alarms and heat alarms must be replaced every 10 years.



Install smoke alarms in every sleeping area, living room, hallway, stairway, and garage.



Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.



Always use a licensed electrician when installing mains-powered smoke alarms.

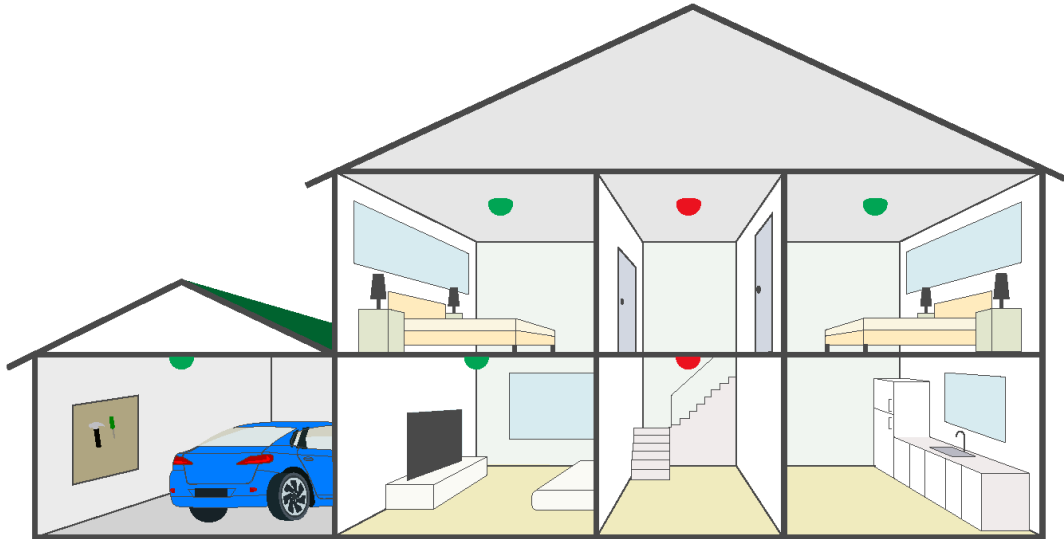


Interconnect your smoke alarms, so when one alarm detects a fire, all alarms sound.

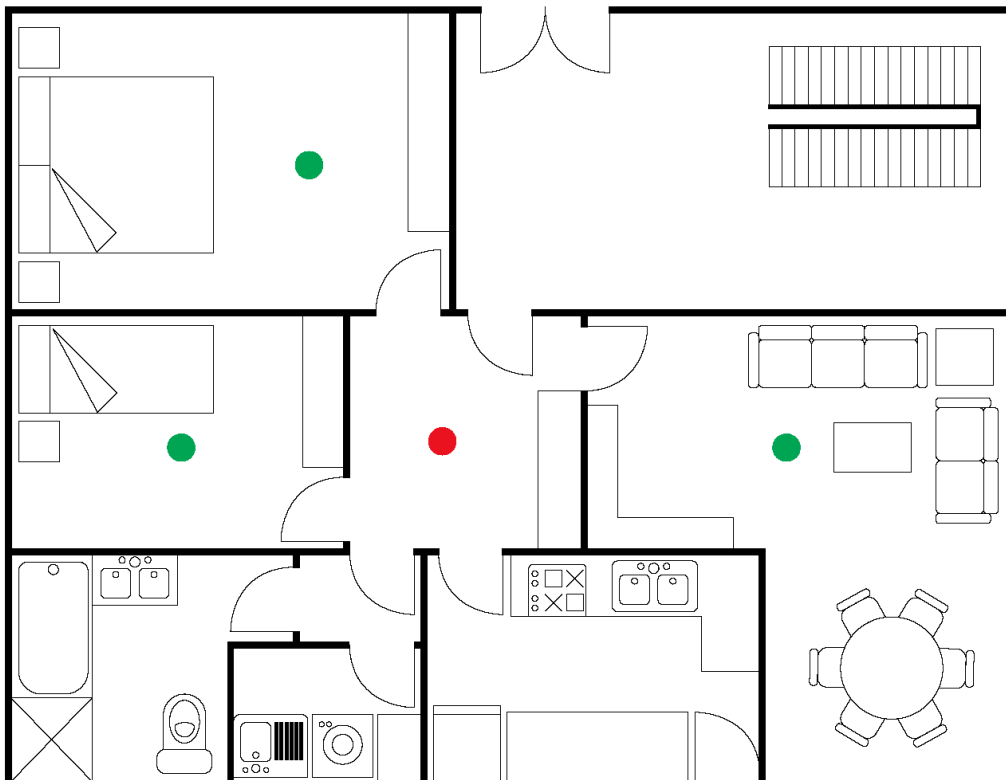
Readers should refer to [Building and Energy](#) for all legal requirements relating to smoke alarms. This publication is intended as a guide to assist Park Homes, Class 1a, Class 2 and Class 4 buildings, and is based on the position of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council. The State of Western Australia (via DFES) makes every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of information contained in this publication. However, no guarantee is made as to the accuracy of the information provided. The WA Government and its servants and agents expressly disclaim any liability (including in negligence) for any act or omission resulting from the use of the information and for any consequences including any loss, damage, cost and expense arising from any such act or omission. APRIL/2025/V1.0

# SHIRE NOTES

## Multi-level floor plan



## Two-bedroom apartment



### Key

- Smoke alarms for the minimum legal requirement
- Recommended smoke alarm placement for best protection

# SHIRE NOTES

## How To Sort Your **WASTE**



[recycleright.wa.gov.au/a-z](http://recycleright.wa.gov.au/a-z)





# COMMUNITY

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## WOODANILLING CWA

Our branch has adopted a project on behalf of Woody Action. It is in response to a lapsed history revamp, so we've walked the walk and soon you'll see the fruit of our labours!! We also began the huge task of repainting the beams up at the Rec Centre! It'll be an ongoing proposition and community support to help out would be appreciated. Stay tuned for more detail of date and time. CWA Perth has initiated a sunflower theme to be presented at State Conference but we'll keep ours local to brighten up the gardens. Our sewing group has also been making "Feelie Hearts" which give comfort if you're feeling down. Come and join us on Wednesday afternoons at the cottage. Anzac Day preparations are underway but we are calling on local knowledge and a volunteer speaker to deliver the main address at the service. We traditionally do a big morning tea and cake offerings from the community would be welcomed.

Call or drop by if you have any suggestions.

Playgroup has been lively and reinvigorating! Love the chatter of young voices!

Meetings happen on the 3rd Monday of the month. All welcome.

Enjoy Easter and school holidays. Stay safe.

Pauline.




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## SHORT MAT BOWLS

Anyone can join! Bowls available. Come and socialise on Monday afternoons at 2.00p.m. at the Woodanilling Recreation Centre.

Contact Pauline for details or just turn up!!




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## TO BE ADDED TO THE WONGI EMAIL LIST

If you would like to be added to the Wongi email list to receive future editions straight to your inbox, please email [shire@woodanilling.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@woodanilling.wa.gov.au)

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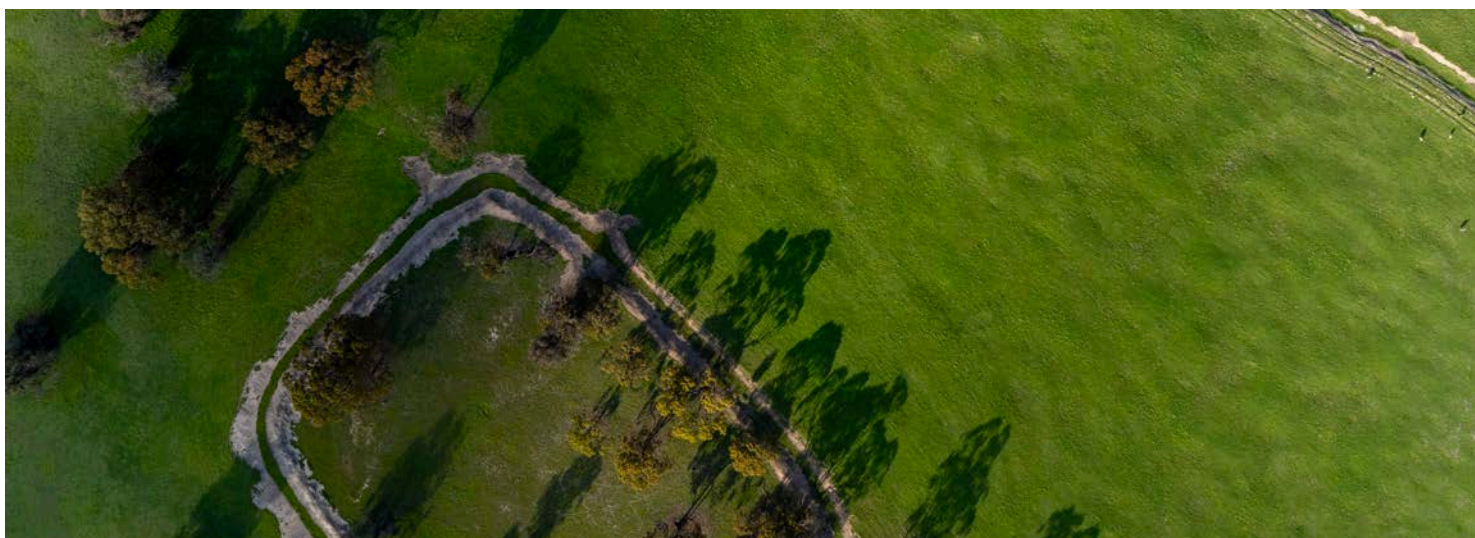
# COMMUNITY

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5th Lydia Wise	14th Carli Eckersley	24th Jane Morrell
7th Daniel Kippin	16th Jeanette Moulden	27th Lee Bessell-Browne
8th Jarrad Hill	17th Tracey Kippin	29th Gilbert Watson
9th Jaqueline Stade	19th Peter Tredinnick	29th Karina Watshon
10th Hannah Moore	20th Stephanie Sampson	30th Kayde Bessell-Browne
13th Louise Moulden	21st Digby Patterson	
14th Haylee Eckersley	23rd Wayne Cooper	

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1st Karen Bessell-Browne	19th Rachel Crosby	29th Todd Dunstan
2nd Alexander Brown	22nd Fleur Roberston	30th Maxine Doak
2nd Bindi Murray	23rd Marg Thomson	30th Julene Cronin
7th Dave Moulden	24th Russell Doak	30th Ann Passfield
12th Jayden Bolt	24th Wendy Hall	
13th John Murray	25th Johnston Kerr	
15th Kym Smith	26th Billy Wise	
15th Gary Edwards	28th Molly Crossley	



# RECIPES

## ROAST PUMPKIN & FETA SALAD WITH HONEY BALSAMIC DRESSING

### INGREDIENTS

For the salad:

- ½ a medium butternut pumpkin (about 800g), peeled and cubed
- Olive oil
- Salt & pepper
- 100g feta cheese, crumbled
- ¼ cup pepitas (pumpkin seeds) or walnuts
- A handful of rocket or baby spinach
- Optional: ½ red onion, thinly sliced and lightly pickled in vinegar

For the dressing:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- Salt & pepper to taste

#### Step 1:

Preheat oven to 200°C (fan-forced).

#### Step 2:

Toss pumpkin cubes in olive oil, salt, and pepper. Spread on a baking tray and roast for 25–30 minutes until golden and tender.

#### Step 3:

While pumpkin roasts, toast pepitas or walnuts in a dry pan for a few minutes until fragrant (watch closely so they don't burn).

#### Step 4:

Make the dressing: whisk together olive oil, balsamic, honey, mustard, and a pinch of salt and pepper.

#### Step 5:

Assemble the salad: layer roasted pumpkin, rocket or spinach, crumbled feta, toasted nuts/seeds, and onion if using. Drizzle with dressing just before serving.



# COMMUNITY

## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Did you know that we have 2 JP's in Woodanilling.

Ray Baxter - 0428 525 530

Russel Thomson- 0419 950 217



## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL WOODANILLING BUSINESS



THE WOODY SHOP

### Opening Hours

Monday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sunday	Closed

# Your productivity, our priority

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**Chloe Turner | Kojonup Area Manager  
0447 469 245**



# PETER RUNDLE MLA

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE NATIONALS WA

MEMBER FOR ROE

NARROGIN

☎ 08 9881 1225

📍 83 Federal Street

✉ peter.rundle@mp.wa.gov.au

ESPERANCE

☎ 08 9071 6555

📍 107 Dempster Street

📱 @PeterRundleRoe

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## WONGI CONTRIBUTORS

All contributions are to be sent to the new Wongi email or to the volunteers listed below; or may be left at the Woodanilling Store in a box provided or handed into the Shire office. Any queries, comments or complaints are to be directed to the Wongi Volunteer.

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## WONGI CONTACT

For any inquiries, please contact Ciara Whitmore at 3316 Robinson Rd, Woodanilling WA 6316, or by phone at 9823 1506.

*NEW IDEAS ENCOURAGED!!*

We would love to see new suggestions and ideas for the Wongi.

By chance do you know someone with upcoming births, marriages, milestones, new locals to have their birthdays added or ad put into the Wongi. Any comments in passing, interesting activities happening in Woody?

Email- [shire@woodanilling.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@woodanilling.wa.gov.au) with your comments, suggestions and updates

All contributions are to be sent to the new Wongi email or to the volunteers listed below; or may be left at the Woodanilling Store in a box provided or handed into the Shire office. Any queries, comments or complaints are to be directed to the Wongi Volunteer.

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## ADVERTISING RATES 2025/2026

For black & white A4 advertisements per month:

Full page: \$66.00 - Half page: \$33.00 - 1/4 page: \$16.50 - Business card: \$8.25

To advertise in the Wongi, email: [shire@woodanilling.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@woodanilling.wa.gov.au)

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