



Family fun day

– Centre spread

New leader at Denmark Arts



DENMARKArts' new general manager Annette Drenth (above) grew up in The Netherlands surrounded by art, history and creativity. She has degrees in arts and psychology. Abbie Pedersen (right) has been in Denmark for six years and hands over the directorship to Annette confident in the future of the organisation.

• Please turn to page 3

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New land releases to ease housing crisis

By PATRICIA GILL

UP to 160 dwellings could be added to Denmark's housing stock with work set to start on the first stage of a new subdivision expected to be pre-sold by October.

The Perth-owned subdivision will be developed on land fronting South Coast Highway with titles available for the most northern stage of the development in July next year. The average lot will be about

500sqm on the 17ha parcel of land which has mostly R20 coding and some R40 and about 15 per cent of the land retained as natural vegetation.

Black cockatoo habitat trees, with 305 marri or karri trees as significant or potential habitat, on 5.8ha have been identified in an environmental report along with a Boorna Gnamma tree used by Aboriginal people for water storage and of high cultural significance.

Black cockatoo habitat trees will be retained and protected to the satisfaction of the Shire.

Trees, rated as very high or high value in the environmental report, should be retained where reasonably practicable and incorporated into the subdivision design, public open space and road reserves.

Where these trees are in private property consideration should be given to the creation of larger lot sizes, possi-

ble tree protection zones and building envelopes that avoid encroachment into them.

At the May 12 special council meeting to consider the structure plan for the development, residents spoke of their concerns about the traffic from Harlequin Street on to South Coast Highway and the retention of the Zimmermann Street Road reserve remaining blocked at South Coast Highway.

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Call for government action to ease residential rental – airbnb imbalance

A REPORT by the peak body for homelessness, Shelter WA, has Denmark at number 15 on a list of rental ‘pain zones’ in regional Western Australia.

A study last year found that the shire had a ratio of 93 unhosted Airbnbs to only one private residential rental.

The shires of Jerramungup, which includes the tourism town of Bremer Bay, and Plantagenet are the fifth and eighth worst regional zones for short-term holiday home ratios.

The greater Albany region had only 18 private rentals listed, compared to 282 Airbnbs while Plantagenet’s ratio was 28 to zero.

Shelter WA chief executive Kath Snell said the findings ‘expose the short-term rental market’s toll on WA’s severe rental crisis’.

“While people desperately search for a place to live, more than 10,000 properties are being used for holidays and short stays instead of safe, long-term homes,” she said.

“We can’t fix the rental emergency without addressing the short-stay accommodation boom.

“The State Government has helped return hundreds of short-stay properties to the rental market through incentives, but those gains have effectively been cancelled out by the number of new Airbnb listings in the same period.”

She said the problem was exacerbated in the regions where 58 per cent of all Airbnbs were located.

“If around one in three of

all unhosted Airbnbs were brought back into the market this would double our available long-term rental supply in WA,” she said.

“We need the State Government, working with local government, to act with real urgency and restrict short-term rentals including by introducing a moratorium on new listings in areas with low vacancy rates, a levy for unhosted short-stay properties, and a WA affordable housing scheme that guarantees long-term supply.

New blocks to ease shortage

• From page 1

An extension of the blocked road reserve will join South Coast Highway.

Resident Barbara McDonald spoke about how Dunskey Place was made into a cul de sac and outlined the potential level of traffic from Kemsley Estate using the Harlequin Street access to Ocean Beach Road.

Councillor Kingsley Gibson asked the meeting if Harlequin Street would be up to this task and was told by an officer that the street was built as a neighbourhood connector for this purpose.

Cr Gibson asked about the site of the old dairy which was in a ‘nominated group dwelling site’.

Because it was located in a potential residential area, it had not been included in the structure plan though the owner/developers had mooted plans for it to be a café.

Discussion focused on the amount of traffic added to both South Coast Highway

and Ocean Beach Road.

This concluded that, though no figures were available, there would be more traffic accessing both roads.

But Kemsley Estate residents would mostly continue accessing their homes via Ocean Beach Road and residents of the new subdivision would mostly use South Coast Highway.

Planning consultant Sam Williams said his plan on behalf of the owner/developers had been responsive to the natural environment retaining key forage and nesting trees in public open space, lots and reserves.

He said the subdivision would be an excellent place to live, within walking distance to the town, close to the proposed Supa IGA on South Coast Highway and the new library planned for the Denmark Visitor Centre building.

Blocks would have underground power and reticulated sewerage.

12 community groups share in Shire grants

TWELVE groups have shared a carve up of \$28,500 in Round 2 of the 2025/26 Shire of Denmark community grants.

This marks the second time a second round of community grants funding has been available, with cash to help local not-for-profit organisations deliver projects that enhance community participation.

Denmark Surf Life Saving Club receives \$5850 for public rescue equipment to improve beach safety while \$5850 is

also earmarked for children’s playground development at the Denmark Tennis Club precinct.

Denmark Junior Soccer benefits from \$2500 to support expansion and participation equipment and \$3000 goes to Healing Hands Inc. for wild-life care and rehabilitation.

Another \$3000 will upgrade the kitchen at Ocean View Function Centre and the Denmark Chamber of Commerce has been allocated \$1500 for

lighting and amenity upgrades. Denmark FM’s outside broadcast equipment will be upgraded with \$800 and Mill Art Group receives \$1880 for foyer lighting improvements.

To support this year’s performances in Denmark, \$2000 has been earmarked for the Albany Chamber Orchestra and Denmark Mountain Bike Club gets \$1000 for trail maintenance equipment.

Denmark Magpies Netball Club’s home game costs and

community participation get a boost of \$500 and Sarabande Early Music Group receives \$620 towards scholarships for early music workshops to support skill development and access.

Shire president Aaron Wiggins said the grants benefited a well-rounded range of groups with great initiatives.

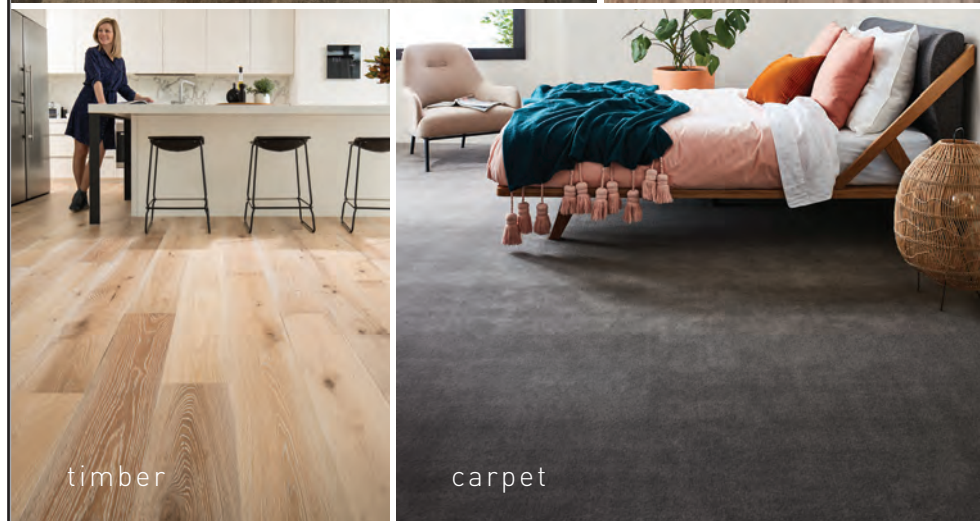
He encouraged community groups to keep an eye out for the advertising of future rounds.



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Safe hands in tough times for the arts

Stories and pictures
by **PATRICIA GILL**

ABBIE Pedersen hands over the directorship of Denmark Arts to Annette Drenth confident in the future of the organisation.

Abbie and her family have spent the past six years in Denmark a time in which she started at Denmark Arts in administration before later working with Albany-based Annette Carmichael Projects.

The three years with Annette Carmichael included the mammoth project, The Stars Descend, enabled Abbie to learn about community arts from a leader in the sector.

She also worked for the multi-arts organisation Breaksea, the Denmark Chamber of Commerce running the night markets in 2021 and did a stint in hospitality.

For the past two years Abbie has directed Denmark Arts through tough times with arts groups vying for scarce funds. The 2026 Festival of Voice at the weekend did not attract Government funding though the Denmark Community Foundation funded the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony and the Shire of Denmark gave support.

Abbie is delighted that the organisation will eventually have street frontage at a new venue at what is now the Denmark



Public Library, saying this will keep the town 'activated'.

The now vacated Denmark Artshouse at the former Frail Aged Lodge was hidden, unlit at night and mostly frequented only by local residents.

"I had people say to me 'is it the dark, scary building down the back?' So, moving from a hidden location to a front-facing one is really positive for the organisation," Abbie said.

An added attraction is the proximity to the Denmark Civic Centre for events thus forming a cultural hub.

Abbie says the scaled-down

version of the Festival of Voice which was once 'on a pedestal' is 'just the ebb and flow' of the industry with stiff competition to fund musical festivals.

There was no single funding source for the former FOV's eight-venue for the events which were held over three days and required a minimum of \$120,000 to run, as did Brave New Works.

This meant spending many hours applying for funding from multiple sources.

"It's a lot of pressure for a tiny organisation to deliver," Abbie said.

The Denmark Arts team now comprises Justine Gambelin, Claudia Simpson, Julia Berglund and the new general manager, Annette Drenth.

It has firm partnerships with Circuit West, the WA Advocate for Performing Arts and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport which over the past three years has supported Brave New Works. BNW is an acclaimed festival offering workshops and professional development within the arts sector.

Abbie departs having enjoyed immense artistic support from the community and a highly skilled board.

Having spent 15 years, off and on, in WA, the Pedersen family move to Brisbane to be near family and to buy a home.

The rest of Abbie's time has been spent in Tasmania before marrying her West Australian husband, Trevor Pedersen.

They have two children, Eli, 12, and Posie, 8.

Abbie has enjoyed delivering Denmark Arts' projects and running the festivals and has loved the Great Southern, particularly, as a place to go camping with the family.

"We've explored all sorts of wonderful, remote locations," she said.

"The simple things like swimming with the kids in the inlet have been wonderful times for them growing up."

New GM no stranger to local arts scene

DENMARK Arts' new general manager Annette Drenth has worked with the organisation for the past eight months in a 'passion project' as a mentor. This has involved the coach/consultant with a degree in arts and psychology who grew up in The Netherlands surrounded by art, history and creativity working alongside the Denmark Arts team to strengthen foundations, branding and resilience.

"I have also engaged with Denmark Arts and its programs for more than two decades, as a visitor regularly holidaying in Denmark with my small family," Annette said.

She was privileged to have the opportunity to help guide the organisation into its next chapter.

Nonetheless, Annette is familiar with the not-for-profit and arts sectors, whereby long-term sustainability will rely on strong relationships, strategic partnerships, innovative thinking and a diverse income stream and funding.

Two years ago, Annette and environmental engineer husband, Martijn Drenth, moved to Denmark from Perth with their now 24-year-old son, Simon, having flown the nest.



Recently Annette met with representatives from the Great Southern Development Commission, the Shire and others to thrash out a proposal for Lottery West funding for a cultural hub based at what is now the Denmark Public Library.

"My focus, and this is not just mine, this is the team's and the board's, is to create a sustainable organisation that can continue servicing the community," Annette said.

Twenty-five years ago, she and her family came to Australia after Martijn was 'head hunted' for a position, for what they thought would be just a few

years.

"We fell in love with Australia, with Australians and with the nature and have not looked back," Annette said.

"We've been all over the world but when you come here, there's something special. "The beautiful smiles I receive when I go out is just very heart warming."

Annette says her main focus will be Denmark Arts and not herself as leader, saying that in the past the Denmark Arts brand has relied on who has been at the helm.

"I want to change that so that we are all here with enormous

passion and heart," she said.

But the challenge will be in sourcing funding for salaries and operational costs with Denmark Arts 'almost back 100 per cent' to being a volunteer-run organisation. All this in an environment where similar organisations are scrambling for the shrinking available dollar.

"And for me, sustainable means I need operational money and I need to be able to pay the artists," Annette said. "Money is needed to just keep the lights on, and we have public liability that costs an enormous amount of money."

The Hague-born Annette grew up among the works of Dutch masters – Vincent van Gogh, Vermeer, Rembrandt – with 'culture woven into every fibre' of her upbringing.

She says that at the heart of every aspect of her work is a creative process, from the Dutch master to the 'glocal' community (which blends global roots with the local community).

"I don't see art as separate from life and business," Annette says.

"It's essential to how we connect, communicate and understand each other."

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Residents call for unity to protect public open spaces

THE local residents express deep concern regarding the Denmark Shire Council's recent decision to divest and potentially sell the public open space at Lake View Dairy Park and Nellie Saw Reserve (Council minutes 31iii26). Public open spaces are vital to the

unique character, biodiversity and mental wellbeing of the Denmark community. Once these natural and recreational assets are sold to private interests, they are lost to the public forever. Reduced walkable green space

and low impact recreation directly impacts the health and lifestyle of surrounding neighbourhoods. Nellie Saw and Lake View parks with the allocated public open space at Wilson Rise Estate provide that green space and connectivity for not only residents

but wildlife. If anything, they should be enhanced for the current residents, and the future residents of the 100-plus new blocks in the new surrounding developments. Selling public land to solve short-term budgetary pressures

sets a dangerous precedent for Denmark's remaining reserves. I call on all Denmark residents to stand together, and protect our POS, not only for us but for future generations. **Mike and Deb Scanlon**



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POS sales would be counterproductive

THE March 31 Denmark Shire Council meeting passed a resolution with a strategy to rationalise the public open space in the Denmark townsite. Six separate parcels of POS have been identified. The preamble for this rationalisation mentions 'a purposeful approach to ensure that POS contributes meaningfully to community wellbeing, environmental outcomes and long term asset management'.

The minutes says and, again I quote, that the POS should be 'retained and enhanced where they provide clear recreational, ecological or community benefit, repurposed or consolidated to improve function, usability or connectivity or divested or exchanged where land has low strategic value and can be better utilised for alternative community or planning outcomes'.

I would strongly argue that divesting (selling) any of this POS is counterproductive to the aim that this resolution is trying to achieve.

Once that land is divested (sold) it is lost to the Denmark community forever.

There is an undersupply of POS to service the residential community in Denmark.

Please remember that POS is not national park where there are impediments to its usage.

There are many subdivisions for building lots in Denmark. Increasing residential development needs that POS.

This is particularly true of Lake View Dairy Park and Nellie Saw Reserve where there must be over 100 lots in the pipeline for potential sale.

POS, no matter how small or shabby, is an enormous benefit to the community.

It is used 24/7, 365 days of the year.

It is a meeting place where neighbours and friends interact.

They are about community, family, lifestyle and psychological wellbeing.

At Nellie Saw, for example, I have seen horses being saddled, young and old playing cricket, football, pétanque, throwing frisbee, flying a kite or simply sitting on the boundary trunks contemplating the beautiful view to Mt Shadforth or Wilson Inlet.

The council preamble mentions community wellbeing - Nellie Saw has it in spades.

Denmark is a very beautiful part of WA, POS in Denmark is in short supply.

Every site suggested for rationalisation should be left intact for our wellbeing and for the wellbeing of future generations.

Peter Rigg

Community parkland sale plan opposed

AS a long-time resident of Denmark, I am concerned about the shire notice in *Denmark Bulletin* 1157 May, calling for expressions of interest to lease or purchase a portion of public open space fronting Scotsdale Road; The shire president, Cr Aaron Wiggins, wanted to see the space used for a project beneficial to the community. He appears to be under the misapprehension that the space is not presently beneficial to the community, when in fact it

is well-used and appreciated. As I walk my dog around this on most days, I encounter other walkers, parents with strollers, toddlers on bikes, students cycling or walking to school and users of gophers. This parkland is the only access to the lower portions of the park and the hospital, on the west side of the hospital, which users are not forced to share with motor vehicles. It is also home to nesting turtles, pied oystercatchers, swamp hens and white-faced

heron, so has intrinsic value as a natural habitat. Additionally, the yate trees consume vast amounts of ground water each day. Their removal would have a seriously adverse effect on the groundwater level in that area. I remember the discussions around the siting of the hospital and the tonnes of landfill required to stabilise the site. The Shire's most recent Local Planning Strategy lists a number of local parks for rationalisation, often citing

excessive management costs as a major reason to repurpose the parkland. However, no value appears to be placed on the benefit of these local open spaces to the communities surrounding them. Their very presence contributes to the wellness of the community. The mowing of these valuable open spaces, at most monthly, cannot surely be seen as excessive management costs. **Susan Pike**

RE the section of Kwoorabup Community Park which the Shire intends to sell or lease. It has been widely discussed that Cr Alex Sleeman wants to build a medical centre there. What he is proposing is in fact a private commercial development, not part of the hospital expansion as many believe. The hospital is owned and operated by the State Government through the WA Country Health Service. There is a clear conflict of interest with a member of council applying to obtain community

public open space for fiscal gain. During the Breakfast on Denmark FM radio program on the May 27, shire president Aaron Wiggins was questioned about the matter and said that Dr Sleeman had approached the Shire about the land before being elected to council. Was this conflict of interest declared when Dr Sleeman ran for council? To have a series of public open spaces up for rationalisation (see Council meeting March 31, 2026) with this particular

one seeming to take priority with an expression of interest process already undertaken is concerning. Many Denmark residents don't believe this section of community park should be on the POS rationalisation list. One reason cited in the rationalisation document is 'excessive management costs'. The hospital groundsman who knows the maintenance requirements of the area has said that only an hour of mowing is needed. There are other issues with

this land: it is semi-wetland and serves as major drainage for the area and is well used by wildlife and locals. No one disputes that an expansion of medical services would be beneficial for Denmark, but not at the cost of a community park with high wildlife value. There are blocks for sale opposite Supa IGA in the commercial section of town as well as other options. Land already zoned for commercial use is where a development like this belongs. **Sue Torlach**



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Community foundation celebrates boost to funding



DCF chair Karen Burford. Supporters gather for the DCF breakfast.

By ABBE RORRISON

MORE than 70 people celebrated a new era for the Denmark Community Foundation made possible with funding from local donors and the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.

At a breakfast at The Dam, people heard how DCF can fund initiatives to relieve social isolation, support people facing hardship

and homelessness, help Denmark's young people thrive and enable the community to prepare and respond to emergencies.

The foundation, which was formed in 2009 and is WA's oldest community foundation, has been revitalised over the past two years under the leadership of the chair, Karen Burford, and a new board of six volunteers.

Recent foundation-funded initiatives include the purchase of the Denmark Community Resource Centre's community bus, new flooring at the Gumnut Corner Occasional Day Care Centre and the work of Homeless Project Denmark.

Also included is a hardship support program at the CRC, installation of an all-abilities path-

way to the Denmark Primary School playground and the upgrade to the McLean House kitchen for the youth-focused community hub Happy Plate Kitchen.

The proudest achievement to date has been the establishment of free, confidential youth mental health support delivered by Youth Focus Great Southern at the Denmark CRC on Wednesday and Thursday each week.

DCF now looks forward to doing even more with the support of local people.

Due to a legislation change, donations to all DCF funds are tax-deductible.

Ms Burford said the DCF was proud

to be part of such a compassionate community, and honoured to support the work of those who made Denmark a caring and connected community.

"I urge all community members to support us whether it be by donating, approaching us about an area of need, coming up with a great initiative that needs funding, or telling others about us," she said.

Details of DCF's funds, how to donate and contact details can be found on its website dcfwa.org.au

Information about the about the free youth mental health support can be obtained via headspace Albany on (08) 9842 9871.



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Margaret Holmes hands a big cheque to Yvonne Hortin.

CWA donation to fund St John training aid

THE Denmark Branch of CWA has donated \$509.68 to St John Ambulance towards paediatric mannequins with which volunteers can learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The money was raised recently at a pre-Mother's Day sale outside Buntings in Albany at which CWA members sold homemade crafts, cakes, biscuits and slices.

While half of the proceeds went to a local charity, the remainder will be used to maintain the Mitchell Street building.

The presentation was held at the first of another CWA fundraiser, Soup Day, which is held every Friday lunchtime throughout winter.

Half of those proceeds raised from

selling homemade soup and cakes and slices to hungry lunch-goers have been earmarked for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

St John Ambulance Denmark community transport coordinator Yvonne Hortin accepted the donation at the Soup Day from president Marg Holmes, saying the money would go towards the mannequins of which St John only had adult and baby sizes.

CWA general meetings are held at 10am on the first Wednesday of the month in the CWA Hall, Mitchell Street.

Crafts days are on the third Wednesday of the month from 10am-2pm.

New members are always welcome.

POS 'surprise'

I PURCHASED and built in Denmark over the past four years because of the relaxed culture, beauty and the location's openness.

I was surprised to hear the Shire would consider housing infill over public open space for the community.

As our property borders Nellie Saw Reserve, I have seen the use from residents playing sport, learning to ride bikes, afternoon yoga and the general thoroughfare between streets for our kids.

I believe, with the removal of both Nellie Saw Reserve and Lake View Dairy Park from our street it will not only create a claustrophobic feeling it will prevent the connection to other streets and sections of the community and I hope the Shire reconsider this decision.

Denmark is a beautiful rural location, it has no urban sprawl issues like a city, so infill housing is not necessary.

A quick internet search will tell you West Australian developers are normally required to cede 10 per cent of the gross subdivision land to public open space.

These changes will reduce the public open spaces to 0 per cent in our location to fund POS in new subdivisions.

I hope logic prevails and space for the community wins over infill housing.

Poul Bennett



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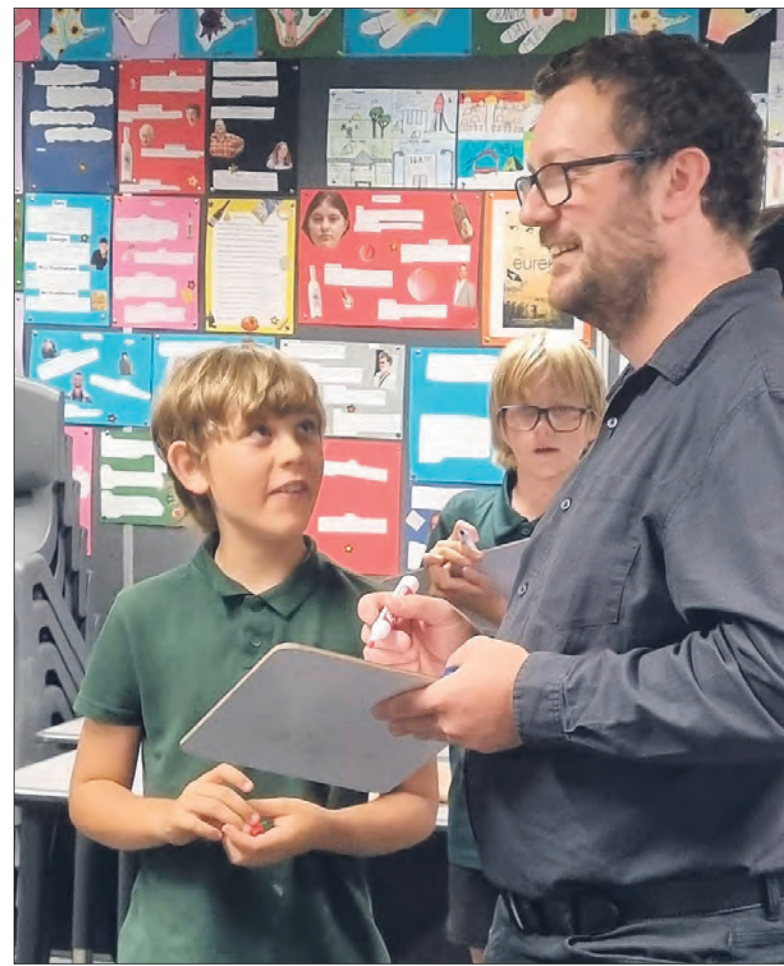
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Tilly and Heidi Hood. Right: Ruby Anderson and primary students with their parents.



Kai Spencer-Percy and his dad, Andrew Percy.



Phoebe, Henry and Clinton Lewis.



Isla Shaw-Jones and Naomi Palmer.



Isla Shaw-Jones and Matilda Day.



Amara and Sophie Mastalerz.



Lily and Todd Burnside.



Scarlett and Guy Lyons create their wand.



Alby and Bruce de Garis.



Noah and Ben Evans make a mandala.

Family day fun at primary school

DENMARK Primary School was abuzz on Wednesday, April 29, as families joined to celebrate Family Day, showcasing the strength of the school community.

The event attracted mums, dads, grandparents and other family members gathering to take part in classroom-based activities.

The attendance highlighted the connections between families and the school, and the important role the school plays in the community.

Celebrated in the spirit of International Family Day, the occasion recognised the many different families that make up the school.

It showed that families come in all shapes and sizes, and that love, care and connection are what matter.

Classrooms hosted activities which were designed to bring students and families together to share learning and fun.

Families participated in creative, interactive and enjoyable events.

In the kindergarten and pre-primary, children worked alongside their families to create nature wands and natural mandalas, combining creativity with a connection to the natural environment.

The experiences were popular and provided opportunities for families to engage together. In the upper school, Years 5 and 6 created a lively and entertaining atmosphere with karaoke sessions and interactive quizzes.

These activities were met with enthusiasm from both students and their families, generating laughter, friendly competition and enjoyment.

The event also offered families the chance to connect with teachers and see learning in action.

The open classrooms reflected the school's commitment to family-school partnerships and to supporting students' learning and wellbeing.

It was a proud demonstration of a school community that grows stronger together.



Millie Eliot and Matilda Morrison.



ABOVE, Right: Emma Bennet from Walpole WOW Wilderness Ecotours guides paddlers and hikers.

Landscapes nurture confidence, connection

A LIVING Landscapes series created opportunities for people to build confidence in outdoor recreation while strengthening connection to place, community and environmental custodianship.

The Denmark Environment Centre-run events have over the past 18 months, enabled participants to learn from local guides and educators amid the region's landscapes and waterways.

Recent ancient tingle forest walks, a Kordalup/Parry Beach gathering and paddle and hike experience in Walpole marked the end of the series.



Walker Jacinta Scott basks in sunshine.



Surf groms in action. Below: Loola Dean, Lindsay Dean, Rhian Thomas, Mark Shepherd, Jo, Belinda Duffall and Jenny Brenton.

Pictures:
CATHERINE SPAGGIARI.





Melissa Howe and giant tingle.



Merome Darvill instructs the surf group.



Merome Darvill and Joelle Russell. Picture Catherine Spaggiari.



Loola Dean, Lindsay Dean, Rhian Thomas, Mark Shepherd, Jo, Belinda Duffall and Jenny Brenton.



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The Shire will spray herbicide in rural and urban road verges in Denmark commencing 1st September 2026 (weather permitting).

The spraying is to control excessive growth of vegetation in drains, road shoulders and verges. The chemicals will be sprayed by qualified persons, strictly following the manufacturer's requirements.

In accordance with Shire policy P120104 property owners can request verge areas adjoining their properties not be sprayed.

To be placed on the Shires No Spray Register property owners must submit a No Spray Register Application form, which is available from the Shires administration counter or on the Shires website at <https://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/forms/no-spray-register-application/25>

Applications must be submitted to the Shire by 4.00 pm on the 31st of August 2026.

If approved, registration will be valid for two years. Applicants whose term on the register is due to expire this year will be sent a reminder email with a link to the online application form or a copy of the form itself. This must be completed and returned to the Shire before **4.00pm on 31st August 2026** for renewal.

If your term is due to expire this year and you have not received an email reminder by the end of July 2026, please contact the Engineering Administration Officer on 9848 0322 to organise your renewal.

Those who do not renew their application before the deadline will not be included on the No Spray register for this year.

For further information don't hesitate to get in touch with Engineering Administration Officer on telephone 9848 0322 or email info@denmark.wa.gov.au

David King
Chief Executive Officer

BAITING TO PROTECT NATIVE WILDLIFE

Under the Parks and Wildlife Service's *Western Shield* program, baiting to control foxes and feral cats occurs on more than three million hectares of conservation lands in Western Australia.

The baits used are toxic to introduced animals but not to native animals which have an evolved tolerance to the active compound (1080). All baited areas are signposted.

Baiting occurs on a regular and ongoing basis to protect endangered native animals including the numbat, western ground parrot and western swamp tortoise.



Attention pet owners: these baits will kill domestic dogs and cats. Baited areas must be considered dangerous for pet dogs and cats at all times.

For more information and maps on areas baited under *Western Shield* visit dbca.wa.gov.au/westernshield or contact your local Parks and Wildlife Service district office.



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions





Devotees at the Elleker Hermitage.



Ajahn Mudu and Venerable Lozang Chodzin.

Elleker new home for tree of enlightenment descendant

A DESCENDANT of the Bodhi tree, under which Buddha attained enlightenment in north-east India more than 2500 years ago, was transplanted from Denmark to Elleker recently.

The Bodhi tree, *Ficus religiosa*, holds a special significance for Buddhists and Venerable Lozang Chodzin, 93, has been nurturing the plant in Denmark for the past 14 years.

For years, she led a group of Buddhist followers in the Tibetan tradition at the Mahakaruna Buddhist Society on the Mahakaruna Buddhist Society on Scotsdale Road and the

group continues to thrive after her retirement a few years ago.

Venerable Chodzin was ordained and moved to Denmark in 2003 where she took over the Mahakaruna Buddhist Society, originally founded under the guidance of a Tibetan Lama, the 15th Gyalkhang Tse Tulku Rinpoche.

In Elleker, Ajahn Mudu established a hermitage in 2019 for Buddhists in the Thai tradition and he has supporters spread over the Great Southern, from Walpole to as far as Esperance.

On Wednesday, May 27, the two groups united in a ceremony to plant the tree from Denmark in the Elleker hermitage.

Before the ceremony, everyone shared a meal provided by supporters.

The Denmark group meets every Sunday morning at the CRC Garden Room and Venerable Chodzin attends every week.

Members take turns each Sunday to run the meditation then there's an open Dhamma discussion and morning tea.



Venerable Lozang Chodzin and Ajahn Mudu.



The Bodhi tree descendant is placed at the Elleker Hermitage. **More pictures in the Bulletin online.**



Probus Club of Denmark members at the Harewood Forest Walk Trail.

Denmark club out and about as Probus celebrates 50 years

By JILL SMITH

PROBUS Australia celebrates 50 years of connection, friendship and community across Australia this year.

The Probus Club of Denmark has operated for 36 years during that time and the club is proud to be part of a network that brings active retirees together through shared interests, activities, fun and friendship. In the past few weeks, members have been involved in some entertaining activities.

Last monthly meeting David Scriven from Ocean Beach Physio talked about the new approaches to pain perception and management which was most enlightening.

The monthly activity in April was a trip on the renowned WOW cruise with the irrepressible Gary Moir who entertained and enlightened 20 members and friends about the local environment as they cruised the waterways of Walpole. It doesn't matter how many times you go, there's always something new and interesting to learn with Gary. Another popular club feature is the monthly walking



David Scriven explains the factors determining pain.

group whose participants explore the many trails, paths, beaches and rivers around town and sometimes further afield.

The most recent walk was along the Harewood Forest Walk Trail on a beautiful autumn day.

In addition, monthly coffee mornings at local cafes are always well attended and provide a good opportunity to talk and welcome prospective members.

Each year a residential trip to somewhere of interest is organised.

In the past few years, the

club has visited Darwin, Kalgoorlie, Nannup, Collie, Narrogin, Ravensthorpe and the Fitzgerald National Park.

The friendly group of active retirees would welcome new members.

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at the Riverside Club starting at 10am.

Retired or semi-retired people who would like to find out more about the Probus club, can contact Jill Smith on 0400 142 410 or the secretary, Nel Struik, at nelstruik.wa@gmail.com



Members take a WOW cruise with Gary Muir.

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Applications close 4.00pm Friday 12 June 2026.

The Shire of Denmark reserves the right to close applications early.

David King
Chief Executive Officer

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Bereavement

NORCROSS, ROB: Members of the Denmark RSL would like to express our sincere condolences to Margaret Norcross and family on the passing of Rob a valued member of the RSL May he rest in peace.

Church Notices

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Next Bulletin June 18

Blessings and love to you all

AFTER two years of not being able to see, I am back behind the wheel of my old MG, something I could never have done without the love of my Fern (the love of my life) and the love and prayers of all the people of Denmark town.

So blessings and love to you all. Stop me in the street and say hello so I can personally say thank you. The one thing I have learnt from all of this, is that John is right, 'All you need is love'.

Ray Ellison

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REVIEW OF LOCAL LAWS

Council has commenced a statutory review of the following Shire of Denmark's Local Laws and is calling for public comment.

- Bushfire Brigades
- Denmark Cemetery
- Dogs
- Extractive Industries
- Parking & Parking Facilities
- Standing Orders
- Health

A copy of the local laws may be inspected or obtained –

- From our website at

[https://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/documents/documents/local-laws/](https://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/documents/documents/local-laws;)

or

- By contacting the Shire Office on 9848 0300 during office hours; or
- email to claire.thompson@denmark.wa.gov.au.

Written submissions about the local laws should be made to the CEO, and can be emailed to info@denmark.wa.gov.au, posted to PO Box 183, Denmark or hand delivered to 953 South Coast Highway, Denmark.

The closing date for submissions is **4.00pm, Monday, 13 July 2026**.

For further information please contact Claire Thompson on **9848 0300** or email claire.thompson@denmark.wa.gov.au

David King

Chief Executive Officer



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COMMUNITY MEMBER VACANCIES ON ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP

Applications are being called for vacancies on the Shire of Denmark's Accessibility Working Group (AWG). Once appointed members will continue their membership until the next Local Government Election in 2027.

The AWG vision is for Denmark to be an accessible and inclusive community for people with disability, their families and carers.

The Group operates as a positive and collaborative forum, bringing together community perspectives to support practical, achievable improvements.

The group's objectives can be found in the Terms of Reference on the Shire's website at <https://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/our-shire/work-with-us/council-committees.aspx>.

Meetings are generally held every three (3) months, at the Shire Office and the typical duration is 2 hours.

Applications can be submitted online via the Shire's website at the above link, or an application form can be provided to you.

Applications must be received by the Shire no later than **3.00pm Friday 26th June 2026**.

Applications not submitted online should be emailed to info@denmark.wa.gov.au or posted to PO Box 183, Denmark WA 6333.

For further information please contact the Shire's Community Development Officer, Andy on 9848 0333 or email andy.percy@denmark.wa.gov.au.

Renee Wiggins

Manager Community Services

Visitor centre tower offers many opportunities

THE unused tower at the Denmark Visitor Centre is hard to miss and it raises an obvious question: why is such a prominent structure sitting idle?

Originally, the tower was built to house an enormous glass water barometer, intended as both a scientific feature and a point of interest.

When that installation was removed, the tower was left without a purpose.

That may have been the end of the story but it doesn't need to be.

The tower represents a genuine opportunity for Denmark to create something distinctive,

engaging and memorable, the kind of attraction that adds to our town's character and draws visitors for the right reasons.

Rather than seeing the tower as redundant, we might consider how it could be reimagined.

There are several possibilities that would make excellent use of the structure:

Reinstate the original water barometer, restoring the tower's intended role and an unusual piece of scientific curiosity. Install a Foucault pendulum, a simple but elegant device that demonstrates the rotation of the Earth.

At Denmark's latitude, it

would complete a full rotation in about 42 hours, a quiet but powerful reminder that we are standing on a moving planet.

Create a camera obscura where a rotating, optical system project live images of the surrounding landscape into a darkened room.

These installations are rare and, to the best of my knowledge, do not exist in Australia. Any one of these would be worthwhile - combined, they could transform the tower into something truly special, an experience rather than just a structure.

Denmark already offers natu-

ral beauty in abundance.

What we lack are distinctive, built features that visitors remember and talk about.

This could be one of them, a relatively modest project that makes clever use of something we already have.

The next step is simple: start the conversation.

There would be real value in the Shire and the community exploring what might be possible, and whether there is support for turning this idle tower into an asset once again.

It would be a pity to let the opportunity pass.

Leslie Glasser

Threatened parks essential part of community

MY home is opposite Lake View Dairy Park and alongside Nellie Saw Reserve.

I can witness the kangaroos nibbling at sunset in Dairy Park, watch the neighbours' dogs bonding and playing whilst their owners catch up and connect.

My first Christmas in the street, I was invited to a gathering in Dairy Park to meet all my new neighbours.

We brought our chairs, snacks and drinks and spent an afternoon where I met my first new friends and my amazing

community.

Each day I love to watch the ladies that come down to Nellie Saw and looking over the inlet at sunset, practice their Tai Chi.

In a world where loneliness and isolation is becoming a global epidemic, now we're proposing to steal the spaces that exist for this community to connect - to each other, to nature and to themselves.

We are not inner-city London; we do not need to remove these spaces for more new housing.

We are not in such a stage of desperation.

This is about ignoring people's needs and values, but at what cost? And to benefit whom?

The views from both parks are a privilege to be shared by all in those spaces, not the select few who can afford the block to do so.

This is a disgusting proposal by the council.

Rather than invest in the spaces to make them more aesthetically appealing, allocating the land for

a community vegetable garden perhaps, or exercise equipment or to just simply allow the whole community to enjoy the beauty of Russell Rise, now we'll be sandwiched in like sardines and as such the comfort and value of our homes will be sacrificed.

I object in the strongest possible terms to this proposal and would be looking to relocate if this goes ahead.

You have devalued my home both in price and purpose.

Sarah Johnson

Letters may be edited for space, clarity or legal reasons. Letters must include the writer's name for publication. The Bulletin reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.



Shire of Denmark

Discover Denmark

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Fitness Instructors

The Shire of Denmark Recreation Centre is seeking enthusiastic **Contract Fitness Instructors** to deliver high-quality group fitness classes.

We are looking for people who align with the Shire's values and work health safety requirements, and can bring energy, professionalism, and creativity to our team and to our healthy, active members.

Essential Requirements:

- Certificate III in Fitness (minimum)
- Current First Aid and CPR certification
- ABN (Australian Business Number)
- Public Liability Insurance
- Ability to deliver group fitness classes (e.g., HIIT, strength, cardio, circuits, functional fitness, etc.)
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Professional, reliable, and positive attitude

This is an excellent opportunity for confident, motivated individuals that are passionate about health and wellbeing to lead engaging classes in a supportive and energetic environment.

Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your experience and preferred class types and times, via email, to info@denmark.wa.gov.au, by **5pm, Friday 26 June**.

For further information contact the Rec Centre on 9848 0344 or via info@denmark.wa.gov.au.

David King

Chief Executive Officer

Contact the Bulletin:

info@denmarkbulletin.com

or call 0418 422 663.



Parks provide 'corridor of connectivity' for fauna

THE March 31 Denmark Shire Council meeting passed a resolution with a strategy to rationalise the public open space within the Denmark townsite.

Two of these are Nellie Saw Reserve and Lake View Dairy Park.

Next to these two POS, the Wilson Rise development is in the process of being established with 100 new blocks and an accordingly rise of population.

Divesting of these POS would make living in this area of Denmark like a back-to-back housing suburb

resembling Perth.

Surely this is exactly what people do not want when they come to live in this beautiful part of the world.

To my understanding Nellie Saw Reserve and Dairy Park were also established and maintained to serve as a corridor of connectivity for the surrounding wildlife.

The rationale for this proposal seems to be a short term solution which will not benefit the Denmark community, flora and fauna in the long run.

Marion Luderitz

Big turnout for Roy Silver Memorial event



Roy Silver Memorial Shield winner Will Diack and Mike Silver.

By MARION NELSON

THE Roy Silver Memorial Shield event, sponsored by Mike Silver, had a big turnout on May 16 with winners being Marion Nelson on 38 and Will Diack 39.

Runners up were Bev Hughes with 37 and Howard Smith with 38.

Roy Silver is fondly remembered as a life member, works supervisor and club champion, and the Silver family has been dedicated club members.

The Captain's Trophy competition took place on May 21 with a Stableford format, attracting a dedicated group of players who braved 8.2mm of rain from start to finish.

Marice Cohen won with 34, while Paul Harbron was the runner up, also scoring 34 on countback.

The two-person Ambrose event, sponsored by Birch Advisory on May 23, was dominated by the big hitters.

David Whitehead and Paul Harbron emerged victorious on 64.75.

The runners up were Rick Slattery and Steve Grimmer, 65, while Les Wolfe and

Craig Thompson finished in third place, 65.5.

On May 28, the stroke competition and third round of the Silver Spoon, sponsored by The Lakehouse Denmark, was held and an exceptional score was posted by Dina Tabcart, who achieved a nett score of 63.

The runner up was Barbara Western with a nett 70.

More results:

May 15, midweek Stableford, 9-hole winner Roger Lawes 19, runner up Adrian Baer 18.

May 19, midweek Stableford, 18-hole winner Russell Hoffman 39, runner up Nick Hughes 37, 9-hole winner Marius Wakka 21, runner up Craig Thompson 19.

May 22, midweek Stableford, 9-hole winner Roger Lawes 21, runner up Paul Harbron 18.

May 26, midweek Stableford, 18-hole winner Marion Nelson 39, runner up Lisa Morey 38, 9-hole winner Larry Martin 20, runner up Tim Maciaszek 20.



Captain Annette Harbron and The Lake House Denmark runner up Barbara Western.



Roy Silver Memorial Shield runner up Bev Hughes and Mike Silver.



Captain Annette Harbron and The Lake House Denmark winner Dina Tabcart.

Les Wolfe, sponsor Andrew Birch and Craig Thompson.



David Whitehead, Andrew Birch and Paul Harbron.

Bain wins Plowman Award

Nev's Corner
By DENNIS MARSHALL

GRAEME Bain has won the prestigious Plowman Award in recognition of his exceptional performance and club spirit over the past season.

Winners of the social bowls triples on May 16 were Sean Brown, Bluey Klinberg and Dennis Marshall and, on May 19, Carlien Trotter, John Benson and Richard Hynes were the winners of the day. The May 23 Lorraine Cotton and Graham Frow won the social pairs. It was good to see Graham in the winning circle.

The May 26 combination of Cheryl Menagh, Ash Cooper and Jeremy Marsden was too good for the group of 30 bowlers.

On May 23, three teams from Denmark competed in a premier league event at the Emu Point Bowling Club in Albany and the team of Barry Roughley, Sean



Plowman Award winner Graeme Bain.

Brown and Graham Bain succeeded in winning their section.

Another club will be nominated later in the year for the continuation of this event.