

Shire of Goomalling



Newsletter

Winter | July 2020

**Happiness is the new rich.
Inner peace is the new success.
Health is the new wealth.
Kindness is the new cool.**

-Syed Balkhi

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#GoKindness

Heartfelt thanks to our caring compassionate community members who supported our most vulnerable residents through isolation by assisting them with supplies, mail and newspaper delivery, and making sure they're okay.

GoKindness is a Goomalling-based Facebook group created to stay connected during the lockdown stages of the pandemic. It was and continues to be a place to express gratitude, share stories of kindness, and positive vibes.

Pensioner Concession Cards

Ratepayers who receive a pensioner rebate are reminded to provide a copy of their concession cards each time you receive a replacement card.

For our rates officer to be able to claim the rebate on your behalf we need to provide a **current** copy.

You can either provide a scan or photo of the **front AND back** of your concession card via email to goshire@goomalling.wa.gov.au; via post to PO Box 118, Goomalling 6460; or come into the office for us to photocopy it for you.

Practical Driving Tests

Local Driving Tests have been temporarily suspended since end of March and are set to resume on 23 July, with a DoT Assessor servicing Goomalling once a month.

Bookings can no longer be made through the shire office and *must* be booked online via DoTDirect - www.transport.wa.gov.au/dotdirect.

CEO's column

Criminal acts

Over the course of the summer we had locks cut on standpipes and water stolen from the scheme. Council is required by Watercorp to have the standpipes locked and faces penalties if we do not. We are not permitted to sell this water. This has arisen again in recent months and when people cut those locks and steal that water, it exposes Council to further costs, not just for the plates and locks, but the penalties as well. It is a criminal offence to remove the locks and steal the water. This affects rates as it is the only way we can fund the replacement of the locks and chains.



Konnongorring West Road

Council has completed this year's works for the Konno West Road, having negotiated an upgrade of the rail crossing with Arc Infrastructure and asphaltting to the entry point to the CBH facility and across the crossing.

Next year it is hoped that we will re-align and reprofile the Northam-Pithara Road intersection and complete the final section of widening. Some of this work will be funded through Roads to Recovery, some by Council and it is hoped that CBH will contribute to the project as well.

Budget

Council staff will be finalising the 2020/21 budget over the next couple weeks and we hope to adopt it by the end of July. It is expected that there will be no increase in the UV rate in the dollar for this year. GRV rates (Gross Rental Values) will remain unchanged but farming land valuations have been reassessed so there will be ups and downs in the total rates levied for each property. More on this further in this newsletter.

COVID-19

It has been a wildly changing environment with regard to the management of the coronavirus pandemic. At times the information was changing daily, and the input and info required from local governments extraordinary.

We have all faced problems with the mail, freight, moving throughout the regions and a whole host of restrictions that we have not seen the like of ever. Western Australians have proven to have been exceptional in their efforts to limit the spread of this amazingly difficult to treat disease and we should be proud of the way we as a

state have responded to the restrictions and instructions that we have had to deal with.

As we now progress to Phase 5 easing, most facilities are now open with a few residual restrictions still in place and the majority of these may well pass after July 18 as long as things continue to meet the State's expectations.

The McGowan Government should also be congratulated on its handling of the crisis. It has remained calm, stuck to its principles and health advice, and has not been swayed by the opinions of other state leaders which has ensured a swift recovery from the crisis economically.

The Federal Government has provided a stimulus package for Local Governments which will benefit the Shire of Goomalling to the tune of \$270,000 and as part of the budget we will identify where these funds can be spent while complying with the guidelines of the program. We will be hoping to maximise the benefit by ensuring that we use the funds where it is most needed and gives us the greatest flexibility.

Postie Service

During the course of the pandemic we have put out a dozen or so public notices regarding the latest updates trying to keep our residents up to date with the latest information. On each occasion that we have done so, Postie has provided distribution to the post office boxes at no charge to Council. I would like to thank Paul and Peta on behalf of us all for their community spirit in providing the service at no cost.

Recycling Service

Council has been in negotiations with Avon Waste to secure recycling collection services in Goomalling. At this stage, the service will only be available in the Goomalling townsite and if it is feasible we will look to expand the service as time goes by.

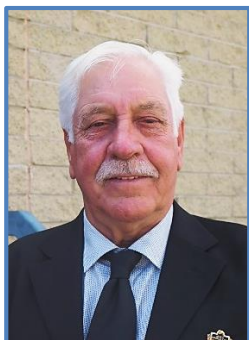
The Lions Depot will still accept restricted recycling as per its current situation and will act as a donation point for the Container Deposit Scheme.

At this stage it is estimated that the service will cost \$85.00 per year per collection. That means that you will be supplied a bin which remains the property of the Contractor and the bin will be collected fortnightly. This will be an addition to your annual rates notice as a Recycling Charge. The service will commence this month.

Peter Bentley,
Chief Executive Officer

Shire President's column

I would like to thank our Council staff for their resilience and adaptability adjusting our ways of operating to the continually changing safety measures and restrictions during the Covid-19 outbreak.



With a specific mention to Tina, Chris and Tahnee for taking initiative to check on and look after our older and most vulnerable residents, making sure they had access to the support the needed in an unprecedented time of isolation.

Thanks as well to Peter for providing the community with regular updates on the rapidly changing circumstances and the restrictions imposed by the State and Federal Governments.

I also want to congratulate our Medical Surgery staff – Dr Nina, nurses Carol and Flick, receptionists Mandy, Lara and Carlene – for the way in which they responded to the challenges surrounding the coronavirus threat, and their tenacity and flexibility to completely change their working procedures to ensure the health and safety of the community. Thank you as well to locum doctors Dr Griffies & Dr Fox who serviced us while Dr Nina was away.

Goomalling's fighting spirit also showed in the local businesses keeping their doors open and trading the best way they could under trying circumstances. Supporting our local businesses is vital for Goomalling to thrive economically and be the vibrant town we inspire to be.

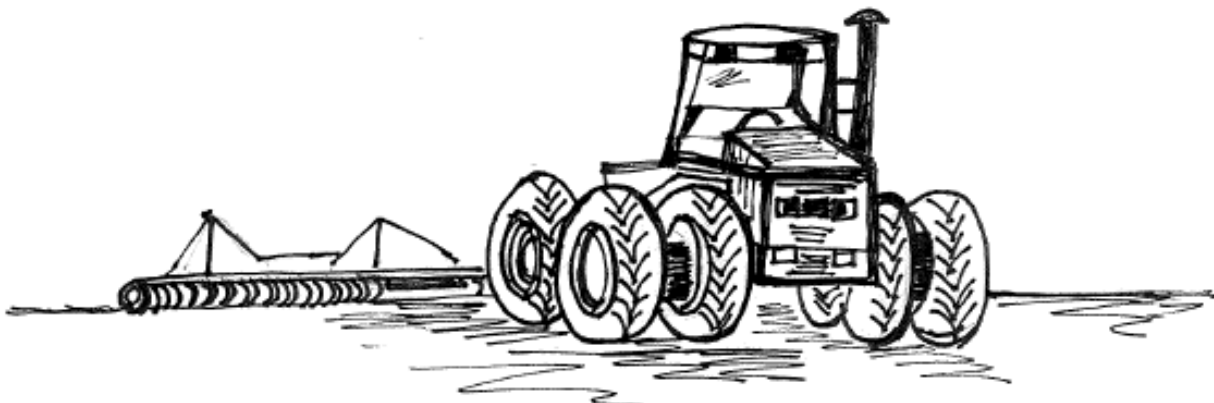
Well done as well to our schools' teachers and staff, as well as our hospital nurses and staff for the way they handled the challenging times and continued their valuable service to the community.

As we are now transitioning through the final phases of the WA Roadmap to easing covid restrictions, I encourage and remind you all to follow hygiene and distancing guidelines and stay safe.

Thanks to Council's outside crew who have kept going throughout this pandemic. The upgrade of the railway crossing on Konno West Road has been finalised. Substantial work has been done on the Calingiri Road surface as part of the lime route. The Meckering Road upgrade has proceeded up to the seal.

And to our farming community, let's hope the rains keep coming. I wish everyone a successful season ahead.

***Cr Barry Haywood,
Shire President***



Works Manager's column

Completed Works

Konnongorring West Road

Works have been completed on the reconstruction and widening of the section adjacent to the CBH bin. This has been widened to a seal width of 8m wide to negate future maintenance costs with edge fretting of the new seal. The rail crossing has been widened and asphalted also to a width of 8m to allow better access for heavy haulage vehicles. This was done in conjunction with Arc Infrastructure upgrading this section of rail.



Goomalling–Calingiri Road

These works have been completed by contractors through a tender process. Works included pavement repairs of failed bitumen sections along most of the length of the road. These were repaired by utilising cement stabilisation works and two coat sealing of the repairs. Two sections totalling a length of 2kms also had a 150mm gravel overlay and sealing completed on them.



Goomalling–Meckering Road

Clearing and drainage works have now been completed. Gravel sheeting works are currently being carried out with works to be completed by mid July, weather permitting.

Due to the timing of the year and the unforeseen removal of sheet granite during the reconstruction phase which has delayed the project slightly, seal works are now anticipated to be carried out in late August or early September. The 5km section will be unsealed until this time so please obey the speed restrictions that will be in place and driving to the changed conditions is advised while using this section.



I would like to thank and congratulate all staff in all works departments on a great job being done during this financial year. There has been a lot of projects completed across all areas to a high standard.

Unsealed roads

With the hopeful anticipation of some winter rains comes a reminder to drive to the conditions on the unsealed road network during these times. If any major areas of repair are required please let the office know so signage and repairs can be scheduled when time, funds and weather permits.

Gravel required

Council will be undertaking a very large road construction program over at least the next 5 years on the following roads in particular if funding applications are approved: Goomalling-Calingiri, Goomalling-Meckering, Konnongorring West, Bolgart East and Bejoording Roads along with ongoing maintenance works on the unsealed road networks.

Gravel will be required to do these works so if any land holders have areas that may be used for gravel extraction please get in touch with David Long - Works Manager so the area can be assessed to see if it is suitable.

Without local supplies the scope works is reduced due to the cost of importing gravel long distances for these projects. Any help with gravel supplies would be greatly appreciated.

**David Long,
Works Manager**

Bike Plan 2020-2030 adopted by Council

The [Goomalling Bike Plan 2020-2030](#) was developed by GTA Consultants and adopted by Council at their special meeting on 29 April 2020. The plan highlights gaps in our current provision of shared path network compared to contemporary standards as well as other opportunities to enhance user experience. The outcomes within the plan are aligned with our Recreational Master Plan and are achievable with support from Department of Transport.

Implementation priorities as identified:

1. Kerb ramp upgrades – kerb ramp connections should be constructed as a priority to ensure a continuous connected network. Hoddy and Quinlan Street are particularly important.
2. Shared path (3.0m wide) along Throssell Street to the Caravan Park
3. Path connection (minimum 2.5m for a shared path) to complete missing links along:
 - Bowen Street – between Hoddy and Forrest St
 - High Street – between James and Throssell St
4. Pump park access to connect users to and from the recreation hub
5. On-road protected cycle lanes along Railway Terrace
6. Safe Active Street along Hoddy Street
7. Closure of Quinlan Street between Hoddy and Lockyer Streets as set out in the recreation master plan
8. Protected on-road cycle lanes along Quinlan Street
9. Bicycle parking at Goomalling Primary School, Recreation hub, Railway Terrace commercial strip, swimming pool and hospital
10. Seating at the recreation hub and hospital
11. Water fountains at the recreation hub and swimming pool
12. Bicycle repair station at the pump park, recreation hub and swimming pool

Shire of Goomalling has been successful in securing grant funding for the following projects:

- \$18,500 in 2020-21 for design and construction of a new pathway on Bowen Street
- \$14,500 in 2021-22 for the design and construction of a new pathway on High Street

These are the first two stages of a long term project carried out over the next five financial years to complete the 5 identified pathways.

Applications have already been submitted for 2021/22:

- Design of Lockyer St pathway

And for 2022/23:

- Construction of new pathway on Lockyer St
- Design of on-road cycle path along Railway Tce
- Design of 8 new kerb ramps along Railway Tce



2020/21 Rates

Your rates explained – educational information provided by WALGA

How are rates calculated?

The rates paid on residential property are calculated based on the operating requirements of the Local Government. The rates you pay are a proportionate share of what is needed by the LG to provide local services and facilities. That is, if your home has greater potential rental return than your neighbours, you will pay a higher share of the total rates budgeted by Council.

What is the 'rates freeze' that Local Governments are talking about?

The rates freeze adopted by many Councils in response to COVID-19 is about not increasing the total amount of rates received by Local Governments. The intent of the rates freeze was to help provide ratepayers with financial certainty – in effect one less surprise in what is a difficult time for many. However, the periodic system of revaluations of properties undertaken by the Valuer General will result in some ratepayers paying more and some less than last year – while the revenue to Local Governments remains unchanged.

How are rates applied?

The Local Government applies a rate in the dollar that is multiplied by the valuation to obtain the rate amount for each property. Please note that a Gross Rental Valuation (GRV) is applied generally in town sites and suburbs and an Unimproved Valuation (UV) is applied in rural areas.

What can make rates go up?

Rates can also increase if your property increases in potential rental value faster than others in your area. For example, if you make improvements to your home that increase its rental value then your share of rates will increase. However, changes to property values that affect the whole market – such as times of boom and recession – do not directly affect rates as the comparative value between neighbouring properties remains the same.

Your rates can increase if the Local Government requires more funds to provide local services and facilities. For example, increases to wages and materials costs or if it builds new facilities or adds new services. Local Governments budgets and consequently funds required through rates are also affected by changes to charges by other sectors of Government such as electricity pricing.

Why don't rates go down when there is a drop in the property market?

This is because your rates are not directly linked to movements in the property market – only the value of your property in comparison with your neighbours. If rates were directly linked to the property market then rates would be far greater than currently. Using each Local Government's budget as the starting point for setting the amount of rates required, protects ratepayers from increases that are not directly aligned with the provision of services.

What if I disagree with my rates?

There are two options to object or appeal your rates:

- Under the Local Government Act 1995 you have 42 days from the time the rates notice is issued to appeal your rates if you believe there is an error with the rate record. If you do decide to query your rates you must still pay the full amount while it is being reviewed.
- You can also appeal how the value of your property was calculated. This against the Gross Rental Value (GRV), generally for suburbs or town sites, or the Unimproved Value (UV) for rural properties, determined by the Valuer General and as mentioned previously sets your share. Your annual valuation is included on the rates notice. If you believe this is too high you can challenge this, more information contact Landgate on (08) 9273 7373 or on www.landgate.wa.gov.au/valuations.

What is the Emergency Services Levy?

The State Government requires Councils to collect the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) from ratepayers. These funds raised go to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The funds do not go to Councils and the rate charged is not set by Councils.

Do pensioners get a discount on rates?

Pensioners with a valid seniors' or concession card are entitled to rates reductions, depending on their status, on Council rates, water charges and the Emergency Services Levy. The State Government caps the rebate to pensioners at 50% of their rates up to \$750.

Do I have to pay my rates all at once?

Councils understand that sometimes people experience financial hardship which makes it difficult to meet all of their financial commitments when they are due. Please contact Council's Rates Officer to arrange a suitable payment arrangement to settle the rates debt by the end of the financial year.

Financial hardship

The Shire of Goomalling recognises and acknowledges the unprecedented challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council has reviewed its Financial Hardship Policy to include COVID-19 related hardships to support our ratepayers during these times; this was adopted at the June Council Meeting.

This Financial Hardship policy applies to individuals as well as businesses and organisations and allows those experiencing difficulties in making their payments to the Shire to make an application for individual payment arrangements.

To complete the Financial Hardship application, evidence of hardship is required, and customers are encouraged to provide any information about their circumstances that may be relevant for assessment. A flexible approach will be taken to a range of individual circumstances.

If the Council determines a debtor is in financial hardship, the eligible debtor will be offered a payment plan based on their application which will comprise of the following:

- an extension in time to pay;
- a payment plan; and
- *where hardship is from COVID 19*, a suspension of interest charges and administration fees whilst a payment plan is in place.

All Shire of Goomalling policies and the Financial Hardship Application Form are available on our website www.goomalling.wa.gov.au.

Please contact our rates officer Trudi Manera finance@goomalling.wa.gov.au or 9629 1101 to discuss your situation.

Lotterywest grant success for Pioneers' Pathways

The Shire of Goomalling has been successful in securing \$82,458 in grant funding from Lotterywest for improvements to the Pioneers' Pathway.

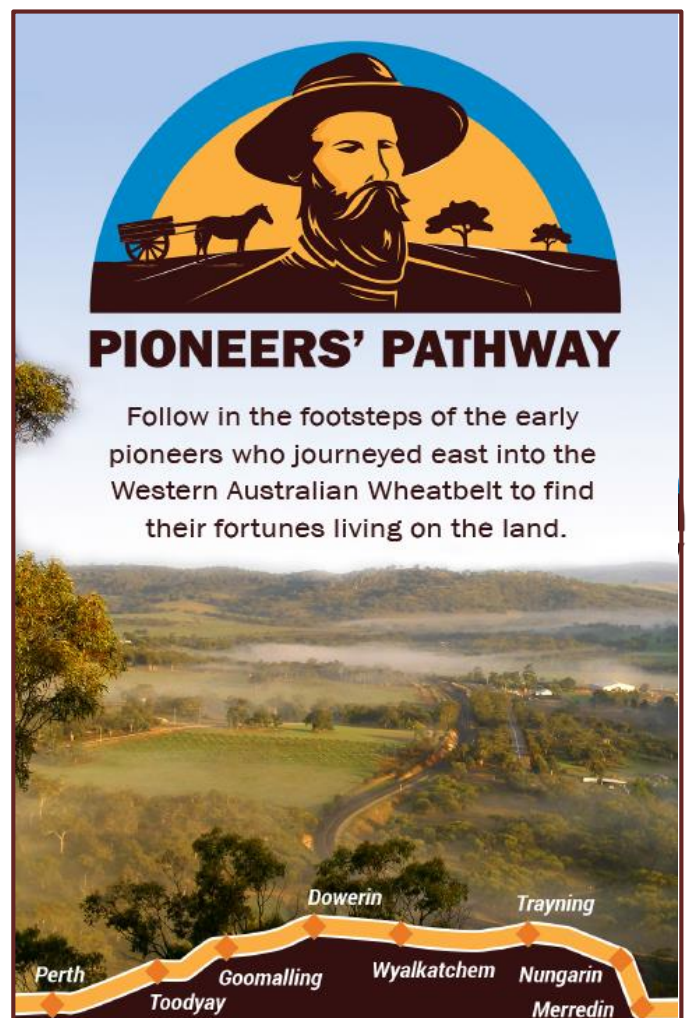
Pioneers' Pathway is a self-drive historical trail starting from either Toodyay or Merredin and traveling through Goomalling, Dowerin, Wyalkatchem, Trayning and Nungarin, as an alternative route to or from the Goldfields.

The seven shires collectively develop and market the Pioneers' Pathway product to the tourism sector with the objective of enhancing economic activity in the participating communities.

The seven shires have each identified one site of local significance which complements their local "story" along the trail. The Lotterywest funding will cover the cost of new branded signage and interpretation that depicts the story.

Shire of Goomalling has selected Slater Homestead and the Slater family as the first pioneering story to supplement the already beautiful precinct.

www.pioneerspathway.com.au



Recycling in Goomalling

Kerbside collection of recyclables

In order to facilitate recycling in Goomalling, Council agreed to implement the fortnightly kerbside collection through Avon Waste. Unlike domestic waste that is disposed of at our local refuse site, all recycling is transported back to a material recovery facility to be sorted and processed before being sent to markets both locally and overseas.

All materials identified as recyclable are collected in the 'yellow lid' wheelie bins, without the need to separate them. It is important to familiarise yourself with recycling do's and don'ts and learn to *recycle right* to avoid "contamination" causing our load of recycling to become unusable. www.RecycleRight.wa.gov.au has very clear and detailed information as well as a Recycle Right App.

Providing this service in Goomalling is in line with our objective to "create a zero waste culture amongst the community" as identified in our Strategic Community Plan and plays an important role in management of our waste. The estimated cost is \$85 per bin per year to be charged on the rates notice.

What goes in your yellow-topped bin?



Plastic Containers & Bottles
(clean, empty, no lids)



Aluminium & Steel
(clean & empty)



Paper (not shredded)
Cardboard (flattened)



Glass
(clean & empty)



NO aerosol cans or gas bottles



NO batteries or electronic waste



NO garden or food waste



NO soft plastics or bags



NO ropes, cables or hose

Container Deposit Scheme

Due to the coronavirus outbreak and subsequent restrictions, the implementation date for the Containers for Change scheme in WA has been postponed to **1 October 2020**.

Containers for Change is our new state-wide container deposit scheme that lets you cash in eligible containers for 10-cents each. The refund point in Goomalling will be located at 62 Main Street.

The 10-cent refund will apply to eligible containers purchased or collected as litter on or after the scheme start date. All containers should continue to be recycled via the current methods until Containers for Change commences on 1 October.

Containers for Change website www.containersforchange.com.au/wa.



Lions Club recycling

Goomalling has been very lucky to have the passionate volunteers of the Lions Club introduce and encourage recycling habits within our community. The time and effort they have put into this over many years meant that there was no cost to our residents, in fact all proceeds were donated back into the community through various channels.

The Lions Club has now disbanded but its volunteers will still continue their valuable work at the White Street depot allowing residents on rural properties who are not part of the collection scheme to continue dropping off their recycling. Any refunds received for Container Deposit Scheme eligible containers will be donated back into the community, just as has been the case up to now.

Other initiatives

The Goomalling Shire and Community Opshop collect the following four waste streams through the Terracycle® program:

- **Beauty products**
- **Media storage** (digital & analog)
- **Pens, Pencils and Markers**
- **Toys**

These are items that we don't generally recognise as being recyclable, so it will take a change in mindset to create a new habit. You could collect them all in a plastic bag and bring it in to the Shire (or Opshop) when you do other jobs in town.

Other convenient collection initiatives in town include:

- Mobile **phones** and accessories – through MobileMuster satchels available at the Post Office
- **Nespresso** capsules – collection box at CentralAg
- **Bottle tops** – collected at opshop for charity that turns them into prosthetic limbs for children
- Used household **batteries** – collection box at the Shire office
- Empty **ink cartridges** – at the Post Office as well as Shire office.

Annual verge collection

Each autumn Council provides the opportunity to (townsite) residents to have their bulk waste collected and disposed of by our staff.

The first collection day will be held on Monday 14th September for green waste only. A second collection will take place on Tuesday 29th September (after the long weekend) for general waste, including white goods, furniture, e-waste, metal etc.

Please refer to the guide below for more detailed specifications.

Monday 14 September 2020

GREEN WASTE ONLY

The following items will be collected

- Only 2 cubic metres will be collected
- Tree and shrub prunings up to:
 - ◆ 1.5 metres in length
 - ◆ 350mm in diameter

The following will *not* be collected

- Leaves or lawn clippings
- Bags or boxes of leaves or grass clipping
- Dug out lawn
- Branches exceeding 1.5m length and 350mm diameter
- General waste, junk or whitegoods

Tuesday 29 September 2020

GENERAL WASTE ONLY

The following items will be collected

- Only 2 cubic metres will be collected
- Metals and white goods (fridges, stoves, electrical items)
- Bulk general waste
- Old furniture
- Mattresses
- TV screens and computer equipment

The following will *not* be collected

- Green waste
- Food waste
- Car bodies, vehicle parts, batteries, tyres, paint, chemicals or gas bottles
- Bricks, sand, cement or building rubble
- Asbestos or super six products

Other guidelines

- Only rubbish **on the verge** will be collected. Our staff will not be entering your property.
- Place your waste neatly on your own verge prior to the collection date.
- Keep an eye on your waste pile as it is your responsibility throughout the collection.
- Please have your waste on the verge **by 7am** the day of collection.
- Please do not put your waste out longer than 3 days prior to rubbish collection dates.
- Any waste that is too good for landfill will be given to the Goomalling Tip Shop for repurposing. Please leave these in separate pile.

School Holiday Activities

All children aged 8 to 16 years are welcome.

Free activities include:

- traditional indigenous games
- canvas art activity
- with prizes to be won

Two sessions:

- Tue 7 July 9.30-11.30am
- Tue 14 July 9.30-11.30am

In the Goomalling Town Hall

For more information please contact Leanne King on (08) 9439 4808 or cecs@nyoongarsports.com.au

WHEATBELT REGIONAL PROGRAM GOOMALLING

Goomalling Town Hall
 Tuesday 7th July 9.30am – 11.30am
 Tuesday 14th July 9.30am – 11.30am

All children aged 8 to 16 Years are welcome
 FREE Activities include
 Traditional Indigenous Games, Canvas Art Activity, Prizes to be won

COST: FREE
 Registrations on the day.
 All children will be required to be signed both in and out on the day.

 Institute of Indigenous Wellbeing and Sport of WA

Goomalling Community Opshop reopening 20 July

The Opshop will open again from Monday 20 July, with new opening times.

Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri 10.30am – 3.30pm
 Saturdays 9.00am – 12.00pm

Come browse through the extensive collection of pre-loved treasures they have accrued after having been closed for several months.

As always all proceeds are donated back to the community through various sponsorships.



GOOMALLING
 ankle or mid calf
SOCKS FOR SALE

\$15 for a pair

To place an order, please contact Christine on 0447 034 788 or 9629 1101

Dates for your diary: everyone is welcome!

Tue 7 July	School Holiday Activities, 9.30-11.30am, Town Hall
Tue 14 July	School Holiday Activities, 9.30-11.30am, Town Hall
Wed 15 July	Council Meeting, 4pm.
Mon 20 July	Opshop reopening.
Wed 19 August	Council Meeting, 4pm.
Mon 14 Sept	Green waste collection, see p.10
Wed 16 Sept	Council Meeting, 4pm.
Tue 29 Sept	General waste collection, see p.10
Sat 17 Oct	GOOMA MESS FEST, community event, Goomalling Rec Grounds

Contact details for Shire of Goomalling staff



32 Quinlan St | PO Box 118
Goomalling WA 6460

T: 9629 1101 F: 9629 1017

E: goshire@goomalling.wa.gov.au

Open Monday-Friday
8.30am-4.00pm

www.goomalling.wa.gov.au &
www.visitgoomalling.com.au

Facebook.com/GoomallingShire

<i>Got a question about...</i>	<i>Then contact...</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>
Admin & Finance	Shire staff	(08) 9629 1101 goshire@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Caravan Park	Keith & Kathy Allen	(08) 9629 1183 caravanpark@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Community Development	Tahnee Bird	cdo@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Community Emergency Services	Robert Koch	cesm@toodyay.wa.gov.au 0458 042 104
Property Management Officer	Jo Bywaters	property@goomalling.wa.gov.au (08) 9629 1101
Ranger	Gloria Robinson	0408 909 356
Shire Website	Karen Mannaerts	eaceo@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Works	David Long	0436 813 959 worksmgr@goomalling.wa.gov.au

Pen drawings collection

"A Taste of Country Life"

by Julie McLean

