

# Shire of Goomalling



Newsletter

Summer 2012/2013

## Merry Christmas!

Staff and Councillors at the Shire of Goomalling wish you and your family a happy and safe festive season, and a healthy and prosperous 2013!

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## Community Safety Info

*How to prepare for the bushfire season, what to do if an earthquake strikes, tips for driving during a storm... do you know how to protect yourself, your property and your loved ones?*

The Shire of Goomalling Community Safety Information File is full of handy safety tips and resources (like FESA's Bush Fire Survival Manual), both for emergencies and everyday life.

Copies can be browsed at the CRC, Medical Surgery and Shire. Shire staff will be happy to provide you with copies of any resources you want to take home from the file.

The information is sourced from places like [www.fesa.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation](http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation).

Any queries about the file? Contact Andrea Hardingham (Community Development Officer) and Alan Knapp (Community Emergency Services Manager).





## From the Shire President

*Thank you everyone who came to a strategic planning workshop and/or sent in their ideas.*

It's not too late to have input. Contact Andrea at the Shire if you want to contribute your ideas to the Shire of Goomalling strategic plan. A draft will be ready for public review next year. Even when that's done, you can keep letting us know your ideas and opinions. Simply chat with a staff member or Councillor, or write to us.

*Councillor John Bird, Shire President*



## From the CEO

*We're in for a dry summer, perfect for bushfires.*

We also live in an earthquake zone and haven't forgotten the havoc and heartache caused by storms in recent times. If you've been thinking about volunteering, why not join our skilful emergency services volunteers? All sorts of help would be welcome (admin, mechanical, whatever!) and training is provided. To find out more about the:

- **State Emergency Service**, ring me on 9629 1101,
- **St John Ambulance**, ring Claire on 0427 900 504,
- **Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**, ring Clayton Carr on 0428 291 050 or Kirsty Beck on 0488 115 962.

At the very least, find out some tips for keeping your loved ones and property safe in our new Community Safety Information Pack. Have a most enjoyable break!

*Clem Kerp, CEO*

## Christmas closures

The Shire office, Goomalling Gym and Goomalling Medical Surgery will all close from close of business 21 December and reopen on 2 January. Driving tests at the Shire of Goomalling will recommence on 24 January.



## Step up and run for Council

Some Councillors will be retiring in October 2013, so it'll be the perfect time to share your creativity and ideas. From then there will be seven Councillors instead of nine, and only one ward. Interested? To find out more:

- chat to any of our Councillors (Shire President John Bird's number is 9629 1216)
- read **Standing for Council - Information for Candidates** available at the Shire or at <http://dlg.wa.gov.au>
- Ask Clem Kerp, CEO.

## Rates instalment reminder

If you're paying by instalments, the next one is due 17 January 2013.

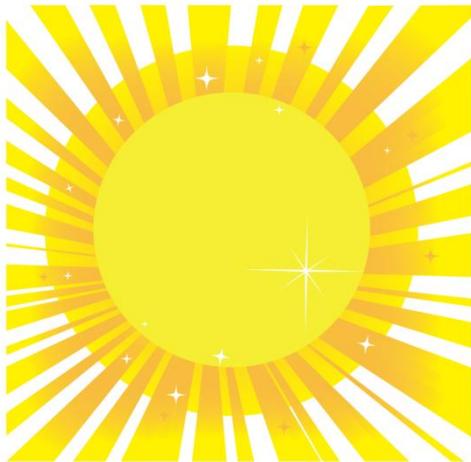
*If you are paying online by EFT, please remember to use your assessment number as the reference.*

## Swimming pools, BBQs and skin cancer tips

Things to do this summer:

- Check the swimming pool gate self closes and locks.
- Check pool chlorine & pH readings. Keep chlorine levels above 2.5ppm.
- Remember the sunscreen cream. Use 50+.
- Slap on a hat...save the nose and ears.
- Always keep BBQ food either piping hot or chilled.

Contact Linton Thomas, Environmental Health Officer for more info.



## NEW Building Act & Regulations up and running!!

Pick up your Plan Submission Envelope with all the information to guide you through the new rules. Yes, it is very different from before and you will need to provide greater detail.

Building without a Building Permit can be very costly. Recently this Council prosecuted a builder for not obtaining a permit and it cost him over \$17,000 in fines and costs, plus his own lawyers' fees estimated at over \$5,000.

If you have any questions, please contact Linton Thomas, Council's Registered Building Surveyor.



## Business skills to enrich our farms

DAFWA's Farm Planning Workshops help farm families build skills to maximise profits.

### Plan, Prepare and Prosper

This 5 day workshop (Northam: 14, 15, 25 & 26 Mar & 11 Apr 2013) will assist all members of the farm business to update or develop a strategic plan for their farm business: covering seasonal variability, work-life balance, financial and succession planning and risk management.

### Planning for Profit

In this workshop (Goomalling: 20 Feb) you'll create an action plan to increase farm business profitability (not just productivity).

### PPP Refresher

This 1 day workshop (Northam: 12 April) is a chance for people who've already completed the five-day workshop to reinforce what they've learnt and update their strategic plan.

All members of farm businesses are urged to attend. Register your interest early as places are limited. Get details and application forms by free call 1800 198 231, at <http://workshops.agric.wa.gov.au> or email [workshops@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:workshops@agric.wa.gov.au).

## Internet: enriching families in Goomalling

Goomalling has a number of teleworkers bringing money into our area via their work over the Internet.

The Internet has many ways to help us enjoy the country life *and* earn a living from elsewhere. For example:

- **airbnb.com** lets you list and rent a room in your house to travellers, and
- **freelancer.com** lists creative tasks that need to be done – if you're a writer, musician, or other artist, check it out and see if you can earn some money from it.

## Help access the NBN

To effectively lobby the powers that be to make sure we get the best outcome from the NBN rollout the Shire needs to demonstrate the community's need for improved internet services. Please email [goshire@goomalling.wa.gov.au](mailto:goshire@goomalling.wa.gov.au) with specific details that will assist us to build our case.



## Christmas lights competition

Goomalling Farmshed and Agserve Goomalling together with the Shire of Goomalling are pleased to recognise the community spirit of people participating in the Christmas Light Competition with residential prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd and best lights at commercial premises. Prizes will be awarded at the Australia Day Breakfast.

Register now to win! Ring 9629 1101.

Farm properties are included.

## We'd like to stay in touch

This newsletter aims to help Goomalling residents and ratepayers make the most of what Goomalling has to offer. If you know a resident who isn't receiving this newsletter, please let the Shire know.

Also, please let the Shire know if there is a change in your contact details or preferred method of delivery (post or email).

## LEDs light up the Goomalling Gym

The Shire has installed LED (light emitting diode) lights in the gym.

LEDs use much less electricity and last much longer, saving money.

Fewer natural resources are wasted, with new bulbs not being needed as frequently, fewer old bulbs going to landfill, and fewer greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere due to the reduced electricity demand.

## Roadworks

Upcoming roadworks will happen at Bejoording Rd and Bolgart East Rd. For further information contact Russell Beck on 0427 556 579.

## (Belated) happy World Soil Day

This year's World Soil Day theme was "securing healthy soils for a food secure world".

Every year on 5 December, World Soil Day celebrates "the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to the human wellbeing through its contribution to food, water and energy security and role in mitigating biodiversity loss and climate change".



## Global Soil Week

The first Global Soil Week was held in Germany in November 2012. [www.globalsoilweek.org/](http://www.globalsoilweek.org/) includes an animation that shows how soil is made, how soil is lost, and how we'd starve without it; issue papers from the Global Soil Forum; and more.

One of the important land management practices, outlined by Dr Constance Neely, is Holistic Management.

Another important message is "If soils are managed responsibly, then soils can act as carbon sinks and help to combat climate change, as they store about 4,000 billion tons of carbon."

## Soils for Life

The Soils for Life website at [www.soilsforlife.org.au](http://www.soilsforlife.org.au) explains why soils are so important; outlines facts about regenerative landscape management; and provides inspiring farming case studies (including Goomalling neighbour's Ian & Dianne Haggerty).

Former Governor General Major General Michael Jeffery (Retd) is the Chairman of Soils for Life, which aims to ensure our future wellbeing by facilitating change in how our landscape is managed.

## Soil biology, soil building and the future of agriculture

Keep 26 - 27 March 2013 free to attend the **Talking' Soil Health Conference - Soil Health in the Wheatbelt** conference in York. Soil ecologist Dr Christine Jones and Dr Michael Robertson of CSIRO's Sustainable Agriculture Flagship, are just two of the speakers. The conference will cover:

- soil biology,
- management techniques to address soil degradation processes,
- soil building techniques, and
- the future of agriculture.

For details contact David Grasby at Wheatbelt NRM on 9670 3108 or [david@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:david@wheatbeltnrm.org.au).

## Holistic Management

Holistic Management, a land management practice featured by both Soils for Life and the Global Soil Week conference, is "...a systems thinking approach to managing resources that builds biodiversity, improves production, generates financial strength, enhances sustainability, and improves the quality of life for those who use it". If you want to receive holistic management training, please contact Andrea to register your interest on 9629 1101 or [cdo@goomalling.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@goomalling.wa.gov.au).

## Skeleton Weed Local Action Group

Skeleton weed is a declared weed that can decimate crop yields. It's extremely competitive and invasive and its wiry stems and sticky sap can block and tangle in machinery. It can also render pasture paddocks unviable.

The Skeleton Weed Local Action Group (LAG) was founded in 2006 for Goomalling, Dowerin, Toodyay and Wyalkatchem to help support farmers eradicate the weed and reduce the risk of it spreading. The LAG coordinates searching for the weed; helps spread awareness of the weed, its locations, and eradication techniques (sharing knowledge about successes and failures); ensures growers understand their obligations and implications of the weed being transferred to new properties; and reviews local/regional strategy. The LAG meets twice a year and you're invited to come and learn more, discuss issues and provide input.



The Shire of Goomalling supports the work of the LAG by helping increase awareness through the Endeavour, our website, and our staff (who have been instructed to stay vigilant and report any sightings).

## How you can help eradicate skeleton weed

Skeleton weed thrives in moist soils, so with the wet start to summer there's an increased risk of infestation. You can:

### Learn how to identify skeleton weed and what to do if you see it.

Get on the skeleton weed contact list so the LAG can let you know when meetings are on and send the latest info to you when necessary. Contact LAG Secretary Lauren Carr on [landkcarr@bigpond.com](mailto:landkcarr@bigpond.com) or 0427 287 180.

Ask for a skeleton weed pocket guide from the Shire of Goomalling or download it at [www.agric.wa.gov.au/objectwr/imported\\_assets/content/pw/weed/decp/bn\\_skeleton\\_weed\\_pocketguide\\_09.pdf](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objectwr/imported_assets/content/pw/weed/decp/bn_skeleton_weed_pocketguide_09.pdf)

### Do

- Use only clean certified seed.
- Allow only clean vehicles to enter your property.
- Accept new sheep in a shorn state only.
- Treat any spindly green plants with suspicion and seek advice.
- Be vigilant and report sightings straight away.
- Attend LAG meetings twice a year.

### Contact

For more info or to report a sighting, call the Shire of Goomalling on **9629 1101**, LAG President Paul Michael on **0419 930 349**, Terri Jasper on **0427 998 599** or Graeme Carr on **0427 291 217**.

## National Landcare Conference

Check out some videos (or transcripts) from the National Landcare Conference held in Sydney in September, especially the heartfelt address from award-winning scientist Dr David Suzuki, who says:

*"We seem blind to the most fundamental needs determined by laws of nature. Air, water, soil, sunlight and biodiversity are the most precious things we have."*

NB: Dr Suzuki starts talking at the 8 minute mark in the video if you want to skip straight to him.

The conference videos and transcripts are at [www.daff.gov.au/landcareconference/videos](http://www.daff.gov.au/landcareconference/videos).

## Road safety is everyone's responsibility

*The major contributions to serious road trauma are speeding, alcohol, driving when tired and the non-use of restraints. All these factors are within the control of the driver, which means that almost all road deaths and serious injuries can be prevented.*

### Novice driver program

The Shire of Goomalling is working with Cliff Simpson, Regional Roadwise Officer, and the Shires of Wongan-Ballidu and Moora to develop a Novice Driver Program.

Every death on our roads is a major tragedy causing enormous emotional pain and grief to family and friends. Even more distressing is the fact that many of those killed are young people. Statistics show that road users 17 – 24 years of age make up just 15% of the Australian population, but they account for around one-third of road deaths. In WA, 20% of drivers killed in road crashes are under 20 years of age, but this age group represents only 6% of all drivers.

Research also tells us that lack of driving experience is a major factor in crashes involving young people. That is why the process for obtaining a driving licence has such a focus on practical experience.

New drivers now spend more time driving under supervision and twice as long driving with the restricted requirements of 'P' plates than previously.

The loss of life and the cost to the community are unnecessary burdens that can be reduced with greater care and more responsible behaviour by all drivers, both young and old.

If you'd like to volunteer your time to supervise new drivers to gain the practical experience required to attain their licence, please contact Andrea Hardingham on 9629 1101.

### Speed

Speeding increases the risk of being involved in a crash and of being seriously injured or killed. Speeding is not just driving faster than the speed limit; it is also driving too fast to suit the road, traffic, visibility or the weather conditions.

## Double demerit points from 21 Dec - 6 Jan

To encourage safe driving behaviour during the festive season, drivers will incur double demerits if caught failing to meet the law. Think safe, act safe and be safe.

## Dates for your diary: everyone is welcome!

### 16 Dec **Konno Christmas BBQ & Michelle Bynon Cancer Foundation Day**

Tennis from 2.30pm. BYO drinks, meat and salad.

### 25 Dec **Christmas on the Park**

Fancy a relaxing Christmas, without all the kitchen stress? Come down to the Caravan Park from 11:30am-4pm for a cooked Christmas lunch for only \$17.50 per head. Bring a wrapped secret Santa gift to the value of \$5 and you'll get a Christmas present too. Bookings essential. For more information contact Verna Neervoort at the Caravan Park on 9629 1183.

### 26 Jan **Australia Day Breakfast (Goomalling Pavilion)**

7-9am – Free cooked breakfast prepared by the Goomalling Lions Club.

### 15 Mar **Konno Bring and Share Tea (Konno Hall) from 6pm**

Bring hot or cold dish to share, BYO Drinks. Residents, friends and neighbours welcome!

### March **Australian Creatures Gallery (Slater Homestead)**

Join us for the grand opening of the Australian Creatures Gallery. Details and date to be advised.

### 25 Apr **Anzac Day (Memorial Park)**

6am dawn service, 10.45am parade & service.

### 19 Oct **Goomalling Classic Flyer 2013**

Following the success of the event held in March 2012 we are planning the next event for 2013. Does your organisation or business want to take advantage of the event and provide a product or service? Let Andrea know so we can plan to include you. Market stalls, including food and drink will be needed to cater to the participants, residents and visitors. You could help to make this day a success by asking friends, family and past residents to come.



32 Quinlan St / PO Box 118  
Goomalling WA 6460  
T: 9629 1101 F: 9629 1017  
E: goshire@goomalling.wa.gov.au

Open 8.30am-4pm Mon-Thu &  
8.30am-4.30pm Fri

W: [www.goomalling.wa.gov.au](http://www.goomalling.wa.gov.au) &  
[www.visitgoomalling.wa.gov.au](http://www.visitgoomalling.wa.gov.au)

[facebook.com/BeActiveGoomalling](https://www.facebook.com/BeActiveGoomalling)

## Contact details for Shire of Goomalling staff

Got a question about...	Then contact...	
Admin and finance	Shire staff	(08) 9629 1101
Caravan Park	Fred and Verna Neervoort	(08) 9629 1183 caravanpark@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Community development	Andrea Hardingham	cdo@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Community emergency services	Alan Knapp	cesm@goomalling.wa.gov.au 0427 388 535
Environmental health and building	Linton Thomas	eho@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Gym	Monique Bohling	0428 772 014
Plumbing / gas fitting	Chris Hazell	0428 291 102
Ranger (including snake removal)	Clinton Verner	0488 046 827
Shire websites	Karen Smith	web@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Sport and recreation	Jo Buegge	avonbeactive@goomalling.wa.gov.au
Works	Russell Beck	works@goomalling.wa.gov.au