

Menzies Matters

May 2025 | Issue 195



In this Issue

Shire Updates

Community News & Info

Why We Need More Trees

In Praise of the Peppercorn

Goldfields History
Local Advertisements
Letter to the Editor
Events Calander

Shire Updates



Shire President's Report

On 8 and 9 April, Councillors Kristie Tucker and
Andrew Tucker attended
the WALGA Aboriginal
Engagement Forum and

the Aboriginal Elected Members' Roundtable.
Attendance at both events is considered
highly valuable for the professional development of the Shire's elected members, particularly in strengthening relationships with Aboriginal communities and enhancing the
Shire's engagement strategies.

On 24 April, during the Council's briefing session, auditors from RSM Australia and a representative from the Office of the Auditor General conducted a presentation regarding the Audit Planning for the financial year 2024/2025. On the same day, the Shire received an email from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) congratulating the Shire for being recognised as one of the 2023-24 best practice entities for timeliness and quality of financial reporting and controls. The OAG acknowledges the Shire's performance across a number of criteria including a clear opinion, the timely preparation and certification of statements for audit, high quality financial report and working papers, and maintenance of good financial management controls. The best practice status is included in the Local Government 2023-24 - Financial Audit Results tabled in Parliament. Well done

to all staff, especially the administration team.

During my visit to Leonora, I had the chance to meet with Rick Wilson, Federal Member for O'Connor, and take a guided tour of the Women's Refuge building. I was joined by President Peter Craig and staff from the Shire of Leonora.

On 25 April, we came together for the Anzac Day dawn service, an important occasion for reflection and remembrance. It was heartwarming to see both community members and visitors come together to pay tribute to the brave men and women who served our nation. A special thank you to the volunteers and staff who assisted in organising and running the service.

As we move forward, it is encouraging to see ongoing efforts and progress throughout the Goldfields region. It's always motivating to catch up with other shires and discuss the positive developments happening in our communities.

Paul Warner



Acting CEO's Message

Firstly this month I would like to congratulate the Shires administrative staff for the recognition by the Office of the Auditor Gen-

eral (OAG) in being one of the top 20 best practice entities for timeliness and quality of financial reporting and controls in the state for the 2023-24 audit. The OAG acknowledges the Shire's performance across a number of criteria including a clear opinion, the timely preparation and certification of statements for audit, high quality financial report and working papers, and maintenance of good financial management controls. The best practice status is included in the Local Government 2023-24 - Financial Audit Results tabled in Parliament. Well done to all staff, especially the administration team.

The Tender for the 12km extension of seal on the Menzies NW Road has been determined with Monarch Civil Ventures being the preferred Tenderer. The Shire is working its way through the final funding arrangements for the project and it is hoped to be completed during the first half of the 2026 financial year.

The Menzies Skate park design is almost during that time. complete and it is hoped that the project will be under construction shortly.

Recent rainfall has provided us with some headaches with regard to roads and while we are working to have initial repairs completed as soon as possible, please be patient as our resource are limited and also, please drive to the conditions.

The CRC/Lady Shenton project is nearing completion with practical completion now achieved. There are still some project variations to be completed and this may cause some service disruption over the next little while, but this will lead to a better outcome for the facility and Menzies.

In the 2026 financial year the Council will need to appoint an independent chair and deputy chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. These roles should be undertaken by persons with the skills and knowledge in the areas of Risk and Financial Management in particular. If anyone has an interest and requisite skills in these areas, please contact me to discuss whether such a role is suited to your skills.

Finally, this will be my last report for a while as I am off on some pre-arranged travel plans for three months. Rob Stewart, who has previously relieved at Menzies, will step into the role for that time and if required I will return for a further three months following Rob's term if the Council wishes.

I would just like to thank the staff and Councillors for making me so welcome here and for having provided me with great support during that time.

Peter Bentley

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

Ordinary Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 29, May at 1pm in Menzies.

This meeting will be held at the Shire Council Chambers, members of the public are welcome to attend. With 15 minutes at the start of every open for Public Question Time.

The Agenda will be available to view on the Shire of Menzies website. Public questions should be submitted by 12 noon the business day prior to the meeting by completing the form on the Shire website, menzies.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/for more information.

The public is advised that, pursuant to Regulation 12(1)(a) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, the Council has approved the following dates, times, and locations for Ordinary Council Meetings.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, 29 May 2025	1 PM	Menzies
Thursday, 26 June 2025	1PM	Menzies
Thursday, 31 July 2025	1 PM	Menzies

Peter Bentley

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Menzies Nursing Post

Weekly Visits from the Community
Nurse, available Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday

Monthly visits from the Doctor.

Call 08 9080 4370 for more information.

If the Nursing Post is unattended and in

need of immediate health advice call

24 HOURS HOTLINE - 1800 022 222

POISON INFORMATION

24 HOURS-CALL 13 11 261

ALWAYS CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCYS

DOCTORS CLINIC 2025

Menzies Nursing Post
Tuesday 27th May
Tuesday 24th June
All Clinics to be confirmed
closer to date.

If you need more information:

Please Call the Nursing post on

90242044 Or 0409107016

Monday to Wednesday 8:30 am - 4:00pm



Saturday Morning Tea and Mass

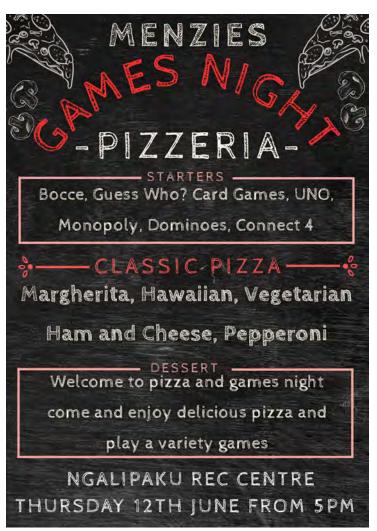
Join us for a cuppa and morning tea, where faith, friendship, and fellowship come together 10 am Saturday 24th of May 2025

Community Building on Shenton Street Menzies

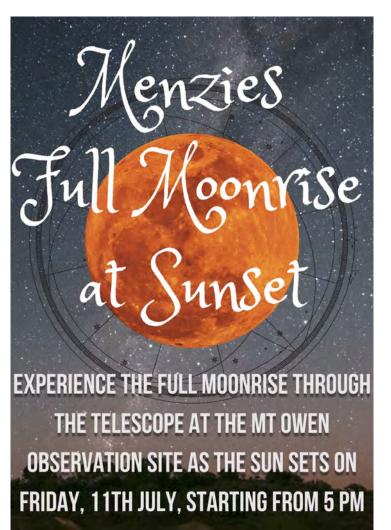
All Faiths

Welcome

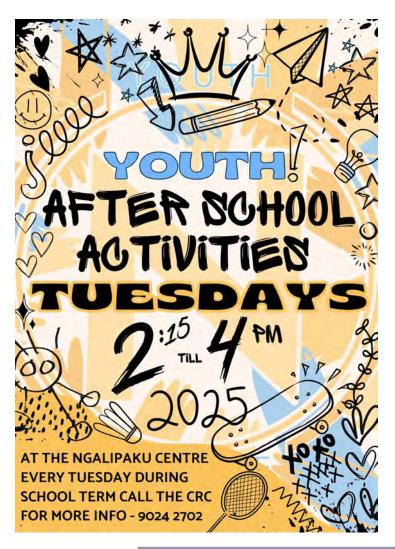














We'll be taking the bus to the Hoover House Cafe pick up available or meet at the Town Hall at 11am

to Lucy or call 9024 2702

12 Reasons Why We Need More Trees

- 1) Temperature Control One large tree can perform the job of ten air conditioning units, cooling down the immediate environment significantly. Trees in cities are capable of reducing street temperatures by more than 30%, making hot summer days more bearable for everyone. Imagine transforming our urban heat islands into cool, comfortable sanctuaries!
- **2) Noise Reduction** Noise is an inescapable element of city life. Thankfully, urban trees are remarkably effective noise barriers. Studies show that trees can reduce noise levels by up to 50%, acting like natural mufflers against the constant barrage of cars, construction, and sirens.
- **3) Air Purity** Urban trees are like giant air purifiers. They filter out harmful pollutants and toxins, drastically improving the air quality. Given that many cities are struggling with air pollution, adding more trees to the mix can significantly improve public health and well-being.
- **4) Oxygen** Trees not only remove pollutants but also replenish oxygen levels. Urban environments generally have lower oxygen levels compared to rural areas. Planting more trees in cities can be a simple yet effective solution to this issue, making our cities healthier places to live.
- **5) Water Management** Trees play a critical role in managing water resources. Their roots absorb large quantities of water, reducing flooding risks and preventing runoff. This is not just about preventing waterlogged streets; it also ensures that our city's water supply remains clean and sustainable.
- 6) Psychological Health trees make us happier! Studies confirm that greenery has a positive impact on our mental health. Walking under a canopy of trees can instantly lift your spirits, reduce stress, and improve your emotional wellbeing. The consequential benefits of being happier and more peaceful as individuals and as a society are immense.





7) Physical Health Green spaces encourage outdoor activities. Whether it's cycling, running, or simply walking, people are more inclined to engage in physical exercise when surrounded by trees. A knock-on effect of people spending more time outdoors is also social integration and stronger communities. More trees in cities mean healthier, more active communities.

8) Privacy Trees add a layer of privacy in crowded urban settings. Whether you're enjoying a quiet moment in a park or looking out from your window, trees provide that muchneeded visual barrier.

9) Economics It's difficult to quantify the total economic benefits of urban trees, but the rewards far outweigh the costs. From attracting tourists to increasing property values, trees contribute to a city's economic health in numerous ways.

10) Wildlife Trees serve as habitats for various wildlife species. Birds, insects, and small mammals find refuge among the branches, creating a biodiverse ecosystem right in our urban centers.

11) Light Pollution Trees in cities can help combat light pollution. By disrupting upward-shining light from street lamps, cars, and buildings, trees contribute to clearer skies and a more beautiful urban nightscape. Skies are clearer in cities with more trees.

12) Aesthetics Last but not least, trees are aesthetically pleasing. They introduce a variety of colors, shapes, and textures to the urban scene, adding beauty and charm to our daily lives. Trees break up the potential monotony of urban environments — the sharp geometry, the greyscale roads, and buildings, the endless rows of cars — with their trunks, boughs, canopies, and flowers.

Every single tree is a myriad of intricacy and texture, of colour and scent, of dappled light on the pavement, mottled bark, knotted roots, clustered leaves, and delicate petals and stern boughs. Few streets would not be improved by the kaleidoscopic aesthetic delights of a tree, not to mention the many different species of tree, all over the world.

In Praise of the Peppercorn

Everybody has heard the parable about not judging a book by its cover, all too often however it seems the things we are most familiar with give us the most trouble when judging what is inside.

Schinus molle commonly known as the Peruvian mastic tree, Peruvian pink berry, the Californian peppertree or more familiar to us the Peppercorn tree is native to South America stretching in range from the Peruvian Andes to southern Brazil.

The Peppercorn is a quick growing evergreen tree that grows up to 15 meters tall, it is long lived, hardy and drought tolerant.

18th century botanists surveying the Andes noted the Quechua people called it the "tree of life". The tree of life is a widespread archetype common to many religions and mythologies throughout the world it is said to represents the source of life, as well as a force that connects all living things.

One of the practical uses of the tree was to prepare the berries into a fermented drink called "chicha de molle" one Spanish chronicler wrote the drink was "sweet and agreeable and excellent against dropsy."

You might now be considering whether this is in fact a work of fiction and I will preface what further I have to say with if you are allergic to cashews or mangoes these plants as well as the peppercorn tree belong to the same family *Anacardiaceae* and you will likely be allergic to them all.

In some parts of the world the red berry is harvested and used as a spice and drink flavouring. Various parts of the tree purportedly

have medicinal benefits, in traditional medicine parts of the tree were used for wound treatment with studies showing extracts of the tree exhibit antiseptic and antibacterial properties. The leaves have been used for dyeing textiles and the Incas used oil from the leaves in their mummification practices. Anecdotal stories say the tree was planted next to stables to ward away flies while recent studies have shown that the essential oils of the tree act as insecticide and as a repellent to certain pests.

The Peppercorn was introduced to Australia via the Adelaide Botanic Gardens the peppercorn tree's immediate success in Adelaide's alkaline soils led to the promotion of the species to other dry parts of the nation. The tree was used ornamentally and for shade, it was planted in parks, streets, railway stations and next to people's homes. In many parts of regional Australia, the weeping habit of a solitary Peppercorn stands as the last remembrance to times and people past.

The success of the species in establishing itself in such harsh circumstances can be admired however its success in colonising sites to the detriment of native species has led to it being maligned and labelled a pest. Ironically in parts of its native South America government policies encouraging the planting of Australian eucalyptus for timber have led to a dramatic reduction to the Peppercorns numbers in its native land.

Next time you cross path with the Peppercorn tree take time to consider its journey perhaps he warrants more praise than we are accustomed to giving.

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Davyhurst – Taken from the writing of G. Spencer Crompton

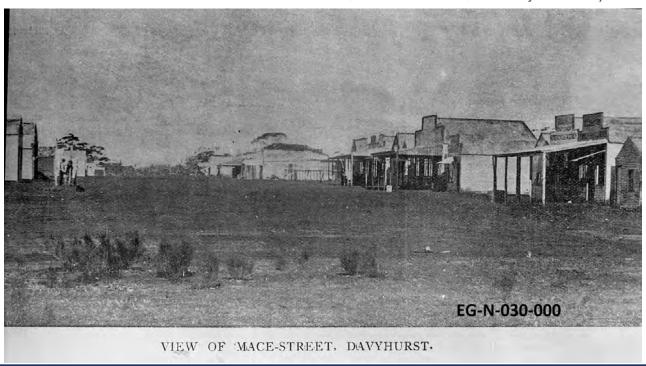
Davyhurst, now a Ghost Town southwest of Menzies, was gazetted in 1901. The Proposed town site was initially declared "Davyston" in 1900. Warden Owen of Menzies advised the Department that the town site was better known as Davyhurst, so named after Watty Davys. The main street received the name Mace after two of his partners.

In 1899, Watty Davys and mates came across from Broad Arrow and found the Welcome Mine. However, as the quartz leader was small, Davys went prospecting about in the bush. After examining likely places, he located three reefs on a hillside feature which he called (Davys being a New Zealander) The Waihi. The lease was registered at Menzies on November 18, 1899.

Quickly, the party completed some work on the lease and sent the ore to a battery at Callion for testing. From 140 tons of ore, they were delighted to find 830 ozs of gold.

There were other mines, but it was soon realised that the Waihi was of great value. The government declared the Town of Davyhurst, and it soon became a proper town with all the trimmings, civic activities, and amenities, including stores, three hotels, a school, a church, a bakehouse, and a government mining office. The school once had sixty children attending. A good dam provided an effective water supply.

Davyhurst was an important gold-mining town for years, and records say that it produced 180,000 tons for 130,000 ozs just locally.



Above article and image supplied by the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society.

Since its formation in 1946, the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society has been recording, preserving, researching and promoting the history of this region with one goal – ensuring that our shared heritage and ghost town memories live on. Come and view the displays and explore the extensive collection of historical photographs, reference materials, books and significant objects.



Where we are: Old Boulder Municipal Power Station Building, 49 Hamilton Street, Boulder (next to Loopline Park) Opening times: Weekdays: 9.00am to 2.00pm

For more information please contact the Society at eghs@kalgroliehistory.org.au or phone 9093 3360.

Goldfields History, Niagara Kookynie 'How It Was' By Margaret E. Pusey

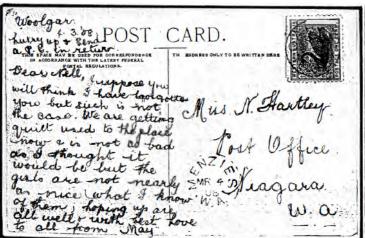
Postcards were like telephone calls - a few examples

Niagara. January 1909 I arrived home safely last night at 3 a.m., after I left there were four more dances, and finished up with Auld Lang Syne. Braddy drove the Thompsons home and that is the reason that we were so late. Had two hours sleep and I felt A.I - I don't think! Mrs. Oates went away this morning so I am on my own. Will try and get in on Sunday night.

<u>Challenge Hotel. Niagara. February 1909</u> Very sorry to hear my cobbers and self were dead narks at picnic on Sunday. Will you be in to Bums and Johnson fight tomorrow night? Goodbye old cobber.

<u>Kookynie. February 1909</u> I am sending you this in answer to your P. C. Came through Niagara at a late hour last night. We had a good time at Jessops. Are you coming to the dance on Wednesday ???

Niagara via Menzies. I am sending hat on tomorrow's train c/o Mr. Speedman. It won't lay at a station then. Hope you are well Leonora is getting on splendid.



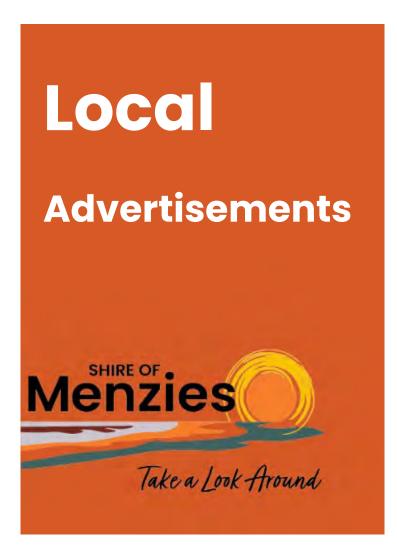


Postcard to Nellie Hattley. 1908. (M. and B. Hartley.)

Kookynie. June 27th, 1910. Just a few lines hoping they find you all in the best of health as we are here at present. How are you getting on at this skating? I suppose Rene has told you that the Kookynie Dramatic Club are holding a benefit Concert on Wednesday and what I heard your presence would be very acceptable (ever met him). I suppose you can recognise the photo, your old friend Mr. Ferguson also your loving little Woody's horse and Trap. I suppose you have had Mamie out to see you by this and she is sure to have given you all the news so I will draw this scribble to a close, hoping to hear from you soon, with best love to you all, I remain, Yours Sincerely Pete.

<u>Kookynie. April, 16th, 1912.</u> My dear Mum, Mrs. Oates wants you to come into tea tonight, and I will drive you home after the tea is over. If you do not come in, I will be out tonight and if May will come I will drive out. I did not receive a card from Dad yesterday. Much love, your loving son, Steve.

Kookynie. 23-5-1910. Dear Viv, I think you still owe me a P. C. but as I do not think you will answer it, I thought I had better write another. We are having plenty of amusement in Kookynie lately. Skating three nights a week. Pictures one night and a dance now and again. So it is not very hard to fill in the evenings. I am trying to skate but I am 'sitting down' most of the time. Vera was telling me of your mother's illness, but I trust that she is feeling better again and that the operation will be successful. How is your throat, Viv. Your sincere friend Steve.













For bookings and enquiries call 08 9024 2702

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm.

All other hours, call 0473 633 149 or

email: bookings@menzies.wa.gov.au

Bookings can now be done online via the Shire website or scan:



Menzies Caravan Park is conveniently located next to the Visitor Centre which is also the booking centre and go-to point for information about the region.

Self-contained modern cabins | Caravan and camping sites | Dedicated disabled amenity with wheelchair access | Camp kitchen | Dump point | Dogs on leads welcome.

Prepaid diesel and unleaded fuel (24/7) available in Menzies town centre.

Free camping sites are provided by the Shire of Menzies at Lake Ballard, Inside Australia (51kms West of Menzies) and Niagara Dam (65kms North East of Menzies) both roads are fully sealed

Menzies, Gateway to the Northern Goldfields, Home to Inside Australia

GRT EXPRESS TIMETABLE

Kalgoorlie to Laverton THURSDAYS

Kalgoorlie (Railway Station)	10am	
Menzies	11:40 am	
Kookynie Turnoff	12:05 pm	
Leonora – arrive	12:45pm	
Laverton	2:30 pm	

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

(08) 9092 6000

Laverton to Kalgoorlie FRIDAYS

Laverton	10am		
Leonora – arrive	11:15 am		
Kooynie Turnoff	12:00 pm		
Menzies	12:30 pm		
Kalgoorlie	2:00 pm		

PURCHASE TICKET ONLINE

www.goldrushtours.com.au





Volunteering for St John WA, St. John's Ambulance is in the process of forming a dedicated committee to support its volunteers in the Menzies area. This initiative is being launched with the collaboration of the community paramedic in Leonora, highlighting a strong community-driven approach to healthcare. The formation of this committee is expected to provide much-needed backing to the volunteers, ensuring they have the resources and support required to effectively serve the community.

Visit <u>stjohnwa.com.au</u> to learn more about becoming a volunteer or come into the Menzies CRC Monday to Friday between 9 & 4 to speak to R John Warner if your interested in volunteering and would like to know more.

Contact volunteersourcing@stjohnwa.com.au or Call:1800069393

Leonora Pharmacy



FREE DELIVERY SERVICE TO MENZIES

Phone, fax or email your scripts / order to Leonora
Pharmacy direct or ask at the Visitor Information Centre
to fax your scripts / order through to the pharmacy
(this includes non prescription items).
Collect and pay for your order at the Menzies Visitor
Information Centre after 2pm the following day.

LEONORA PHARMACY RESPECTS YOUR RIGHTS TO PRIVACY

Please be assured that all prescription and non-prescription items will be sent in a sealed bag.

Phone: (08) 9037 6820 Email: leonorapharmacy@iinet.net.au



Avoid the Flu

The following groups are eligible for Government funded influenza vaccines in WA:

- children aged 6 months to 5 years
- primary school-aged children
- pregnant people (at any stage of pregnancy)
- Aboriginal people aged 6 months and over
- people aged 65 years and over, and
- people aged 6 months and over with certain medical conditions

WA health department contact number: 08 9321 1312











Heritage 'Unearthed'

Nalgoorlie-Boulder 18 April - 18 May

TOCAL ABOUNDERS

TOCAL ABOUNDER

PIONEER STORE ART GALLERY



LOCAL ABORIGINAL ART EXHIBITION // ART GALLERY

OPEN 1PM - 4PM TUESDAY & THURSDAY MENZIES ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Letter to the Editor

Letters will be published as space permits and may have to be edited. So if you have something on your mind, write a letter to the Editor and we will do our best to publish it. If the letter is about the Council, we will do our best to respond in the same edition if time allows.

During my recent days back in Menzies I noticed some improvements.

Because I'm a critic to council it is only fair to recognise good work when it happens.

I can only congratulate the council for the positive actions, although I know the decision makers are further down the line and I hope my word is conveyed to them.

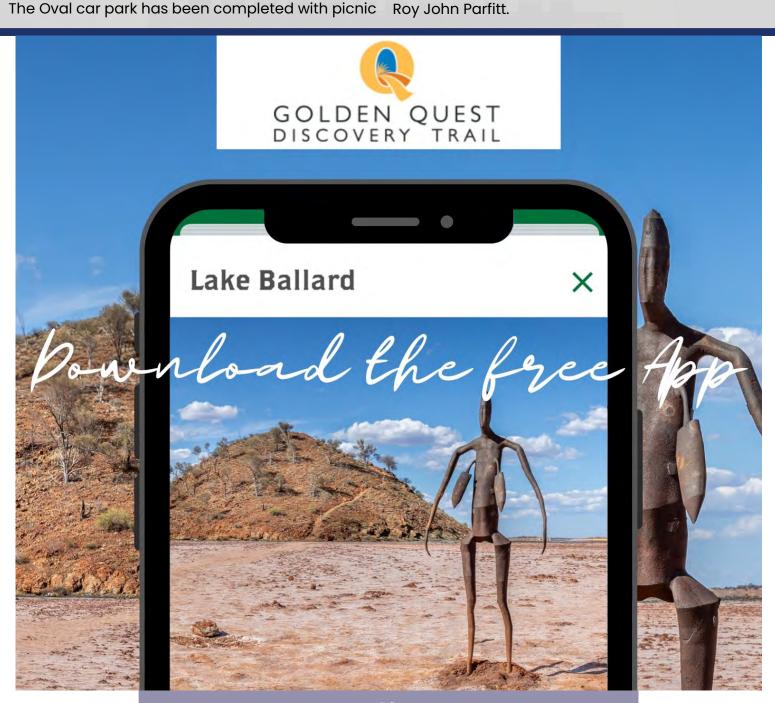
The electricity has been connected to the church hall.

facilities.

And the biggest miracle of all is the sealing of the ascending road to the water tank. Although I know of the strategic value for sealing this road it also reduces dust into my property. This is a surprise considering the Shire does not have a road sealing program.

I'm slowly meeting all of you again so that you can tell me all the gossip.

All for now.



Events Calendar – May / June 2025

	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Week 1		YOUTH	Seniors	Community			
^1		AFTER BUHOOL ACTIVITIES	Lunch	Bus	- A. 1111 11 111		
Week 2	5	6	7	8 Community	9	10	II Mother's
)k 2		AFTER BUHOOL AUTIVITIES		Bus			Day
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Week 3		YOUTH AFTER BUHOOL	Community Eats	Community Bus			
	19	AUTIVITIES 20	21	22	23	24	25
Week 4		or Deriving		Community	THE WAR	Morning	
ek 4		AFTER BUHOOL AUTIVITIES		Bus		Mass	
26m	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Week 5		AFTER BUHOOL	Seniors Lunch	Community Bus			34
		ACTIVITIES	Lancii				
5	2	3		5	6	7	8
Week 1		AFTER BOHOOL		Community Bus			
		ACTIVITIES 10		12	13	14	15
Week 2		0 0 T		Community	0.00		art are being
ek 2		AFTER BCHOOL ACTIVITIES		Bus			
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Week 3		YOUTH AFTER BUHOOL ACTIVITIES	Community Eats	Community Bus			
5	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Week 4		AFTER BUHOOL ACTIVITIES	Seniors Lunch	Community Bus			

Ordinary Council Meeting at Menzies