



What's New in the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu?

SHIRE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Each week meet a member of our team!

Liddy Pudwell - Executive Assistant to the CEO
Liddy is one of our newer team members, joining the team 15 months ago as the Executive Assistant to CEO Stuart Taylor. Both sharing the same star sign - Scorpio, who are described as lovers of debates, they aren't afraid of controversy, and won't back down from a debate, they definitely make an interesting work duo and provide the office entertainment.

We were lucky enough to gain Liddy on our team, when her and her husband Ken decided to leave the city life behind and bought a house with land in Goomalling for a change of lifestyle seeking the slower pace country life offers.

Liddy, originally from Queensland has now resided in WA for 40 years and is a lover of the Australian bush. Liddy and Ken regularly go bush camping seeking out the railway dams on their trips all around Australia. Liddy has also travelled across country through various different "Variety Bashes" raising money for an incredible cause at the same time. Variety Bash is an adventure with mates driving decorated 30+ year old cars through regional parts of Queensland... sounds like the ultimate bush bash for Liddy!



Christmas Closure

Please note the Shire Administration Office and Wongan Hills Community Resource Centre will be closed during the following period:

Friday 23 December 12.00pm to
Tuesday 3 January 9.00am

Councillors, management and staff wish you a joyful and safe festive season and a Happy New Year!



CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION



The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu's Christmas light competition is back for another year! Turn your lights on between Sunday 4 December & Saturday 10 December for the judges scoring!

Wongan Hills Best House -

Wongan Hills Best Business/Public Building

Ballidu Best House

Ballidu Best Business/Public Building

Winners announced at Australia Day Breakfast 2023!



ROADWORKS



CONSTRUCTION CREW: Road Widening Dowerin-Kalannie Road, north of Cadoux. Speed Restrictions in place.



MAINTENANCE GRADERS: Area 1 - Kirwan. Area 2 - Lake Hinds area.



MAINTENANCE CREW: Patching Wongan Hills-Cadoux Road, Guideposts and signs - Hospital Road, Kondut Area.



BACKHOE CREW: Culvert installation Dowerin-Kalannie Road, temporary traffic lights in place, speed restrictions in place



What's New in the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu?

GENERAL & HOUSEHOLD TIP PASSES

During the 22/23 distribution of rate notices, all households received 4x general and household tip passes. These 4 passes can be used to drop off general & household waste during the opening hours of the Waste Management Facility on Hospital Road.

They are for times when you have excessive amounts of household waste and the items do not fit in your general waste kerbside collection wheelie bin.

Once you have used your 4 tip passes, fees apply for the drop off of household waste at the facility.

1

2

3

4



BULK WASTE TIP PASSES

This financial year, ratepayers were provided with 2x bulk waste tip passes which were coloured orange. These bulk waste tip passes are in addition to the regular 4 tip passes provided for household waste. These 2 additional passes can be used for bulk goods only.

The decision was made by Council, on a trial basis to reduce the verge side waste collection from two to one, therefore, Council provided the 2 additional "Bulk Waste Tip Passes" now giving residents 3 opportunities to dispose of bulk goods instead of 2:

- Using your two new bulk waste tip passes
- During the one verge side collection (dates listed below)

1

2

22/23 Verge Collection Dates:

Wongan Hills: 11/05/2023

Ballidu: 12/05/2023



CHRISTMAS WASTE COLLECTION

There will be no changes to waste collection within the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu during the festive period.

December 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

HOSPITAL ROAD - WONGAN HILLS

Opening Times

Mon to Wed - Closed

Thur to Sun - 8.30am-4.30pm

drumMUSTER - Fri - 9.00am-4.00pm

Christmas Day and NYD - Closed



The Airport History...

The Wongan Hills Airport was established in the 1960's and by early 70's aviation was very popular within our district with over 20 pilots living locally with 7/8 aircrafts. This meant there was a lot of activity on the airstrip. The planes at this time were mainly small airplanes which the 700m long airstrip was suitable for.

1988



In 1987, a terrible accident occurred and there was a requirement for the Royal Flying Doctor Service to land in Wongan Hills to fly the patient to Perth, to seek urgent medical treatment to save their life. RFDS knew the airstrip was short for the size of their aircraft and they were required to lighten their load prior to being able to land in Wongan Hills. When the plane arrived, the pilot circled and attempted to land the plane twice, however, due to the condition of the strip and the length, they were unsuccessful. Due to the urgency of the situation, and life being at stake, the pilot tried a third attempt, where he made the land and was able to pick up the patient. Upon take off the pilot only just cleared runway. This event triggered the importance of the need to upgrade and lengthen the airstrip.

With support and donations from Wongan Hills Aero Club, Kondut Sports Council, Wongan Community Association and the Shire, money was raised to upgrade the airstrip and carry out the essential works.

At the time the project was beginning, Telstra were laying the new optic fibre cable in Wongan Hills and had large bulldozers nearby to rip up the trenches required to install their cables. Community members convinced the bulldozer drivers to support their needed upgrades and the drivers pushed the gravel up the hill to lengthen the runway. This extension combined with later extensions has now meant our airstrip is 1200m long, which can facilitate larger aircrafts to land.

In addition to this, the need for new lighting at the airstrip was identified. St Johns Ambulance used kerosene flares to light the strip at night in an emergency. However the flares only lit the runway, not the windsock, which is important to pilots when landing and taking off. Due to this, the decision was then made to install fixed lighting. Rob Sewell was asked by the Shire to coordinate this activity on behalf of the community.

Rob rallied together community members, local businesses and the Agricultural Research Station to assist with the project. This upgrade was monumental for our Shire and shows the true community spirit of our town. The airstrip became a hotspot for pilots flying from all over WA due to the automatic lock system installed on the new building. The door was unlocked when pilots activated the lights on the runway and enabled pilots to use the toilet, access water and contact the Civil Aviation Authority for important weather information. Royal Aero Club of WA would use the airport for learners to land due to its convenient distance from Perth. Today, pilots can now enjoy landing on what can be described as one of the best regional airstrips in the country.



2002

A project to renovate the Wongan Hills Airstrip was taken on after the poor condition of the airstrip was highlighted in 2002; an RFD pilot refused to land the plane on the town's gravel air strip for an emergency transfer in bad weather. After 12 months of research and planning, a massive 9-day busy bee took place in 2004. The project cost \$490,000, The Government Regional Airport Development Scheme supplied \$209,375, Council contributed \$205,620 and the community's in-kind contribution amounted to \$75,000. This was by no means a project that involved the Wongan Hills community alone. The whole of the Shire was involved, and neighbouring Shire's also loaned their machinery for the operation. The community of Wongan-Ballidu recognised the work as important to the health needs of the district. Farmers, local businesses and contractors donated the use of their machinery and their time. Various organisations and individuals organised meals, acted as traffic controllers, tyre changers and mechanics and gave other support as needed. The airfield was flattened out and bituminised, remote-controlled lights were installed and the road leading from the town to the site was prepared and sealed. In 2005 Community of Wongan-Ballidu was awarded the Kleenheat Gas Community of the year award for their contribution to this project.



2004... The Opening



The News...

'Community of the year Awards' finalist

Advocate 4-8-2005

By Merrel Pond

THE community of Wongan Ballidu Shire has been acknowledged for its mammoth effort with the Wongan Hills Airfield Improvement Project in 2004 by being judged as one of five finalists in the prestigious 'Kleenheat Gas Community of the Year Awards'.

The awards are part of Awards Australia and administered by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development WA.

Wongan Ballidu is a small but progressive Shire of approximately 1550 people, located 184km North-East of Perth and comprising three main towns, the largest being Wongan Hills followed by Ballidu and Cadoux.

The pressure's on

The appeal for funds to light the Wongan Hills airstrip is off and running and the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu Airfield Lighting Fund grows steadily. (14-12-1998)

The "Gazette" is to keep readers in tune with its progress by publishing an appeal barometer regularly.

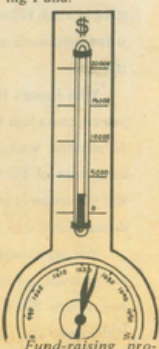
To reach the \$20,000 fund-raising target by Christmas, the district must support the cause.

According to the chairman of the fund-raising coordinating committee, Mr Rob Sewell, farmers may offer wheat donations at all grain receipt points within the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu and outlying areas - there are grain delivery cards at each location.

Cooperative Bulk Handling officers will be there to assist wheat donors.

Cash donations may be deposited at the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu office or mailed to PO Box 84, Wongan Hills.

Cheques should be



Oh! What a feeling: Craig Thornton (left), Vinnie Mills, Gena Warburton and Damien Smith, Wongan Hills Shire works crew whoop for joy at the news that the town had been selected as a finalist in the WA Community of the Year awards.



2021

On Thursday 5 August 2021, the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu announced its successful bid to secure \$300,000 of funding through the Australian Government's Regional Airports Program. This application came about when local Don McPherson, approached President Jon Hasson with regards to upgrades required at the strip. The facility had a small ambulance shelter for the transfer of patients from the ambulance into aircrafts. One evening, at 3am, the rain was pouring down and an elderly lady was transferred in the open air due to the limited space underneath the shelter. Inspired by the unfortunate situation, Don with St John Ambulance approached the Council and Shire for an extension to the shelter to ensure patients could be safely moved out of extreme weather conditions. The request to extend the shelter was then expanded on by a project plan driven by CEO Stuart Taylor and funding was secured to deliver the following outcomes:

- 1) Expansion of the heli-pad, apron and public parking areas
- 2) Widening the taxiway
- 3) Fencing and drainage works
- 4) Construction of a shelter for patient transfers

On Wednesday 30 November 2022, the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu opened and blessed the airport following the completion of the upgrades. Stories of history were told by both Robert Sewell and Rob Millsteed, who shared insights into previous airport works and projects and how our community rallied together in 1988+ and 2002+ to better the facility available to our community.

Don McPherson, the influence behind the newest upgrade, shared his story on behalf of St John Ambulance of why the upgrades were needed and what inspired St John Ambulance to request consideration of upgrades by the Shire and Council. Don spoke of the support President Jon Hasson gave and his major influence on this project.

Reverend Leon Stickland made a blessing and current President Mandy Stephenson officially opened the airport joined by Rob Sewell, Rob Millsteed and Geoff Hasson.

Thank you to everyone involved, a great afternoon was enjoyed by all with afternoon tea provided by the Wongan Hills Bakery.



2022... The Opening

