

## Boyup Brook Community Awards Winners Announced

The Shire of Boyup Brook celebrated Australia Day with the presentation of the 2026 Community Awards at the annual Australia Day Breakfast, recognising the outstanding contributions of local residents. Awards were presented by Shire President Helen O'Connell and Deputy Shire President Darren King, with a short, sharp shower arriving just as the final awards were announced keeping everyone on their toes and wrapping up the presentations in true local style. This year's recipients were David Cowan - Sports Person of the Year, David Fortune - Kevin Henderson Memorial Award and Mary-Anne Inglis - Citizen of the Year, each acknowledged for their dedication, leadership and lasting impact on the community, and for exemplifying the spirit of service, commitment and pride that makes Boyup Brook a strong and connected place to live. The Shire thanks the Boyup Brook RSL for raising the flags, Pastor Craig Rodger for the Prayer for Australia, the Shire Straits (Donna and Jason) for entertainment, MC Joanna Hales-Pearce, all Shire Councillors and staff, and most of all the community for supporting the celebration.



### Sports Person of the Year – David Cowan

David Cowan was named Sports Person of the Year in recognition of his exceptional leadership, dedication and contribution to Australian Rules Football in Boyup Brook and the Lower South West. As Captain of the Boyup Brook Football Club from 2023 to 2025, David led with professionalism and sportsmanship, culminating in the club's 2024 Lower South West Football League Premiership, where he was awarded Best on Ground. A multiple league and club award winner, David is equally respected for his mentorship of younger players and his commitment to building a positive, inclusive club culture. His achievements have brought pride to the club and highlighted the high standard of sporting talent within the Shire.



### Kevin Henderson Memorial Award – David Fortune

David Fortune received the Kevin Henderson Memorial Award for his outstanding service and leadership within the Boyup Brook volunteer bushfire brigades over more than a decade. Known for his proactive, district-wide approach to fire mitigation, David has worked closely with the Shire and multiple agencies to strengthen fire preparedness, improve communications, secure critical resources and enhance volunteer training. Even after stepping down from leadership roles, he continues to mentor brigade leaders and support succession planning, fostering a strong, capable and confident volunteer base. David's dedication has significantly improved community safety, resilience and trust across the Shire.



### Citizen of the Year – Mary-Anne Inglis

Mary-Anne Inglis was named Citizen of the Year in recognition of her long-standing and wide-ranging contribution to the Boyup Brook community across health, education, sport and governance. A founding member of CoMHAT, Mary-Anne has played a key role in supporting local health and wellbeing initiatives, while her governance experience includes board roles with the Boyup Brook Co-operative and District High School, and ongoing involvement with the school P&C. With more than two decades of volunteer service across hockey, football, swimming and sport and recreation, Mary-Anne is known for her integrity, generosity and quiet leadership. Her dedication has strengthened community connections and inspired countless others to get involved.

***More photos on page 5 of Shire News***

**Shire Office**  
Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 4:30pm



✉ PO Box 2 Boyup Brook 6244  
☎ (08) 9765 1200  
✉ shire@boyupbrook.wa.gov.au  
🌐 www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au

**Department of Transport**  
9:00am - 4:00pm

**Medical Centre**  
Monday- Friday  
8:30am - 4:30pm  
9765 1026

**Recycling Dates**  
Wednesday 14 January 2026  
Wednesday 28 January 2026  
Wednesday 11 February 2026

**Transfer Station**  
Thursday 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Sunday 11:00am - 2:00pm

**Waste Collection**  
Every Wednesday  
**After Hours**  
**Trees on Road**  
0429 403 487  
**Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban**  
9765 1543



# SHIRE NEWS

**We bulk bill  
every eligible  
patient**

medicare

**Bulk Billing  
Practice**

## Boyup Brook Medical Services - Bulk Billing

Brook Medical Services is proud to offer 100% bulk billing for all Medicare-eligible services, meaning Medicare-eligible patients will have \$0 out-of-pocket costs for MBS items such as:

- ✓ GP consultations
- ✓ Health checks & assessments
- ✓ Chronic disease management plans
- ✓ Care plans, immunisations, procedures & more

**Quality healthcare, completely free for everyone with a Medicare card.**



Our nurse is here to help every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Ready to book? 📞 Call (08) 9765 1026

**Appointments are 15 minutes for 1 or 2 health matters.** If you need more time for items such as mental health, multiple concerns, procedures etc, please let our friendly reception team know when booking so we can give you the time you need. This helps to keep wait times to a minimum for everyone.



Come and see us — your health matters!



Boyup Brook  
Medical Services

### BOYUP BROOK MEDICAL SERVICES

- 📍 78 Abel Street, Boyup Brook WA 6244
- ✉ reception@boyupmedical.com.au
- 📞 Ph: 9765 1026 for an appointment
- 🕒 Open Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm



*Looking after our community*



# SHIRE NEWS

## WORK WITH US



*Great team, rewarding work*

Are you looking for an exciting career path that allows you to make a meaningful difference in your community?



### Shire of Boyup Brook Works Department Gardener - Full Time

The Shire is seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Gardener/General Hand to join our Works & Services team. This hands-on role plays an important part in delivering the Shire's gardening and maintenance program, helping to keep our parks, gardens, sporting surfaces and public spaces looking their best.

Duties will include the upkeep and maintenance of landscaped areas, recreational facilities and general town maintenance, with work carried out across a variety of outdoor settings. Previous experience in a similar role will be highly regarded; however, training and ongoing support can be provided to the successful applicant. This is a great opportunity for someone who enjoys working outdoors, takes pride in their work and wants to contribute to the presentation and liveability of our Shire.

This is a fantastic opportunity to work close to home, be part of a team environment and be involved with the community. For more information, please visit the Shire website <https://www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au/council/your-council/current-vacancies.aspx>

*The Shire of Boyup Brook is equal opportunity employer and is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace.*



## Public Health Plan

The Shire of Boyup Brook is commencing the preparation of its Public Health Plan. The Plan was originally drafted prior to COVID-19; however, due to competing public health priorities during this period, the Department of Health revised the completion timeline.

All local governments are required to develop a Public Health Plan that aligns with the State Public Health Plan. The objectives, priorities and actions of the State Public Health Plan can be viewed at: [https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N\\_R/Public-health-planning/State-Public-Health-Plan](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Public-health-planning/State-Public-Health-Plan)

Community consultation will assist in identifying local health challenges and strategies that can help improve quality of life and support healthier lifestyle opportunities and environments for residents. The Plan will formally outline the Shire's actions as a local government and support collaboration between the Shire and the community to achieve improved health outcomes.

The development of the Public Health Plan will be linked to the Shire's Strategic Community Plan.

Community members are invited to provide feedback or discuss the intent of the Plan by contacting the Shire on 9765 1200 or by making a written submission to [shire@boyupbrook.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@boyupbrook.wa.gov.au). Submissions close at 4:30pm Friday, 28 February 2026.

Prior to making a submission, it is highly recommended you read the State Public Health Plan.

## Strength in Numbers: Why Connection is Our Best Defence

In emergency management, we often talk about "social capital"—which is really just a fancy way of saying "looking out for each other." When things go wrong, whether it's a bushfire or a personal health scare, your neighbours are your first responders before the sirens even start.

In Boyup Brook, we are no strangers to the power of nature. Whether it's the threat of a summer bushfire, a sudden winter flood, or a damaging storm, we know that being prepared is part of country life. We pack our emergency kits and clear our gutters, but there is one survival tool that doesn't fit in a bag: Community Connection.



### How Being Connected Helps During a Crisis

When a catastrophic event hits, the "official" help can sometimes be minutes or even hours away. That's when our local network kicks in:

- **Early Warning & Information:** In a fast-moving event, a quick phone call from a neighbour two properties over can be more vital than any app notification.
- **Resource Sharing:** Someone has a chainsaw, someone else has a generator, and another person has a spare room. Connected communities map these resources naturally.
- **Checking the "Quiet" Houses:** When we know our neighbours, we know who is elderly, who doesn't have a car, or who might need extra help moving livestock.



### Beyond the Big Events: The "Private" Crisis

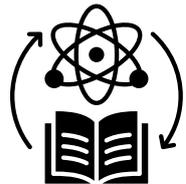
While we prepare for the "big" disasters, life often throws us private ones—an unexpected illness, a bereavement, or a period of financial stress. This is where our local groups shine.

Whether you are part of an arts and crafts group, a sporting club, or volunteer emergency services, these aren't just hobbies. They are safety nets. They provide a space where people notice if you haven't shown up for a week, and where "How are you?" is asked with genuine intent.

### How to Start Connecting

Building a resilient community doesn't have to feel like a chore. It starts small:

- **The "Plus One" Rule:** Next time you see a familiar face at the IGA or the Pharmacy, go beyond "hi." Ask how their season is going or mention a local event.
- **Join a Group:** We are incredibly lucky in Boyup Brook to have everything from arts and sport to our local responder groups. Find your "people" through shared interests.
- **The Over-the-Fence Chat:** Knowing your neighbour's phone number is one of the most effective emergency tools you can own.

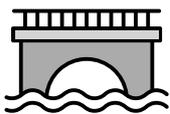


### Why this works (The Science of Connection)

Beyond the practical help of a spare generator or a hand with the livestock, there is a profound psychological benefit to being connected. Research shows that people with strong social ties tend to recover from trauma much faster because the act of sharing an experience reduces the isolating feeling of "why me?" Furthermore, having a trusted neighbour nearby can be a literal lifesaver when "decision fatigue" sets in; during a crisis, the brain can freeze under pressure, and a clear-headed suggestion from a friend can break the cycle of panic. Ultimately, this builds what experts call collective efficacy—the deep-seated belief that "we can handle this"—which empowers a community like Boyup Brook to take the proactive steps necessary to protect the town and everyone in it.



We are stronger together. By building these bridges today, we ensure that when the winds blow or life gets tough, no one in Boyup Brook has to stand alone.



## Bridge Works in Boyup Brook

Fulton Hogan will be undertaking bridge works within the Shire over the coming months.

Works are scheduled for Bridge 3306 (Jays Bridge) Jays Rd: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026. A road closure will be implemented 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 onwards.



## Ordinary Council Meetings 2026

Shire Council Chambers  
55 Abel Street, Boyup Brook



All Council meetings (unless otherwise decided by Council) are open to the public. Residents, ratepayers and other interested parties are welcome to attend. Meetings commence at 6:00pm.

26 February	26 March	30 April	28 May	25 June
30 July	27 August	24 September	29 October	26 November

\*Dates correct at time of publication, please check the Shire website for any changes

### Your Councillors

Cr Helen O'Connell (Shire President)	0427 653 146	Cr Darren King (Deputy Shire President)	0417 796 298
Cr David Inglis	0418 651 088	Cr Philip Moore	0429 939 412
		Cr Michael Wright	0427 191 785

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Use your smart phone camera or a QR Reader to scan this code and open the Shire website.