

## Boyup Brook Evacuation and Recreation Centre Update

Exciting progress continues on the Community Building Renovation Project, with major demolition and groundwork activities now well underway on site.

Over the past month, the project has reached several significant milestones, including the removal of a large portion of the internal concrete slab in preparation for the next stage of construction. Once the new inground services for the changerooms and kitchen facilities are installed, the slab will be re-laid as the new spaces begin to take shape.

Planning and procurement for the internal fit-out has also officially commenced, with HVAC equipment selection now underway. This marks the beginning of the extensive coordination required to deliver the modern, functional facilities the community has been eagerly anticipating.

The coming month will see construction activity ramp up even further, with installation of the remaining inground services, footing and slab pours, and the commencement of retaining wall construction across the site.

A special congratulations must go to the BBSRA and the Football Club for the fantastic temporary facilities currently operating during the construction period. The way the community has adapted throughout the project has been outstanding and reflects the strong cooperation, resilience, and community spirit that makes Boyup Brook special.

The transformation is becoming more visible every week, and the project team looks forward to sharing more exciting updates and construction milestones with the community next month.



**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 3 June 2026  
Wednesday 17 June 2026  
Wednesday 1 July 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

## Mrs Suzanne White Awarded Honorary Freeman of Boyup Brook

The Boyup Brook community is proud to celebrate Mrs Suzanne (Sue) White, who has been awarded the rare and prestigious title of Honorary Freeman of the Shire of Boyup Brook in recognition of her decades of outstanding service.

Sue's contribution spans a remarkable range of organisations and initiatives across tourism, health, agriculture and community infrastructure, leaving a lasting impact on the region.

A strong advocate for youth development, she dedicated many years to Girl Guides, progressing from Brownie Leader to become the first Regional Commissioner of the Blackwood Region, supporting young people across Boyup Brook, Busselton and Pemberton.

Her extensive involvement also includes the Upper Blackwood Agricultural Show, Hospital Board and Devon Cattle Society, along with several years as President of the Blackwood River Valley Marketing Association. She has contributed more than 40 years to the Boyup Brook Tourism Association, helping promote the region across Western Australia.

Sue also led the Heated Pool Committee from 2005, helping raise over \$100,000 to bring the project to life, an achievement that continues to benefit the community today.

Widely respected for her leadership and ability to bring people together, Sue has previously been recognised as Boyup Brook Citizen of the Year (2001) and awarded Life Membership of the Boyup Brook Tourism Association.

The Honorary Freeman title is reserved for those who have provided exceptional and sustained service. Sue's contribution truly reflects this honour, with a legacy that will continue to benefit the community for years to come.



## Are You Ready? Preparing for Severe Weather in Boyup Brook

While we often focus on the threat of bushfires, the shift into the cooler months brings a different set of challenges. In the South West, severe weather—including damaging winds, heavy rainfall, and flash flooding—is most common between March and October.

Severe weather can happen at any time and often develops quickly. By taking a few simple steps now, you can significantly reduce the risk of property damage and keep your family safe.



### 1. Prepare Your Property



Your home is your first line of defence. High winds and heavy rain will find the "weak spots" in any building.

- **Secure Loose Items:** Trampolines, outdoor furniture, and bins can become dangerous projectiles in high winds. Store them away or tie them down.
- **Maintain Your Roof:** Check for cracked tiles, loose screws, or signs of rust. Small leaks during a storm can quickly lead to major structural damage.
- **Clear the Path:** Ensure gutters, downpipes, and drains are free of leaves and debris so water can flow away from your home rather than into it.
- **Vegetation Management:** Trim overhanging branches that could fall on fences, vehicles, or powerlines.



### 2. Put Safety First

When a storm hits, your behaviour is the most important factor in staying safe.

- **Stay Indoors:** Avoid unnecessary travel during storms. If you are on the road, pull over in a safe area away from trees and powerlines, and use your hazard lights only when stopped.
- **The Danger of Water:** Never drive, walk, or play in floodwaters. Even shallow water can be fast-moving and unpredictable. Remember: If it's flooded, forget it.
- **Downstream Impacts:** Be aware that flooding can occur in our local catchments even if it hasn't rained directly in Boyup Brook. Water travels downstream from surrounding areas, often catching residents off guard.



### 3. Stay Informed

In WA, we have world-class tools to keep us updated. Don't wait for the rain to start before checking your resources.

- **Emergency WA:** This is the official source for all alerts and warnings. Visit [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://emergency.wa.gov.au) or download the app.
- **Create a Plan:** Use the Emergency WA app to create a household emergency plan so everyone knows what to do and where the emergency kit is located.
- **Monitor Local Forecasts:** Keep an eye on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) for early weather watches and warnings.

## Let's Act Together

Community preparedness is a collective effort. This month, we encourage all residents to spend one afternoon "storm-proofing" their homes.

**If you require emergency assistance during a storm or flood, contact the SES on 132 500. In a life-threatening emergency, always call 000.**

## The Backbone of Resilience: Why Volunteers are the Pulse of Our Community

Every year on May 4th, **International Firefighters' Day** serves as a global moment of reflection. While we rightly honour the bravery of career firefighters, this day also illuminates the quiet, persistent dedication of our **volunteers** who form the frontline of safety in our regional and local communities.

Volunteering is more than just "giving back"; it is a fundamental driver of social connection, which research identifies as a critical predictor of both mental and physical health. In emergency services, this connection manifests in three distinct ways:

1. The deep friendships and trust formed within a brigade.
2. The links created between different local groups and neighbouring communities.
3. The vital partnership between local residents and government structures.

These layers of social capital create a "social safety net." When people volunteer, they don't just put out fires; they build a sense of belonging that protects against isolation and enhances collective resilience during times of crisis.



**Figure 1: Benjinup BFB Volunteers L-R, Richard Walker, Kristen Mappin and April Moir (2026)**

## The Value of Training and Upskilling

In the modern landscape of emergency management, good intentions must be backed by technical proficiency. Upskilling is no longer an optional extra—it is a mechanical necessity.

Research shows that extrinsic, skill-based emergency response training significantly increases a person's sense of community responsibility. When a volunteer feels capable, they are more likely to take decisive action.

Structured training, often delivered in flexible "short-format" workshops, allows volunteers to master complex tools—from advanced radio systems to hydraulic rescue equipment—ensuring they stay safe while helping others.

By investing in training, a community isn't just preparing for the next fire or major emergency; it is creating a workforce of highly skilled, confident leaders who can mentor the next generation.

## Turning Capability into Community Action

The true magic of volunteerism happens when individual skills meet community needs. Studies indicate a "moderated mediation" effect: as a community's collective response capability grows, the perceived risk of disasters actually decreases because the public trusts in their shared ability to manage the threat.

This creates a culture of preparedness. When you see your neighbour training in their yellow, orange, green or blue gear, it acts as a silent signal that the community is ready. This visibility encourages others to participate, creating a self-sustaining cycle of safety and engagement.

## A Call to Connection

If you have ever thought of volunteering within the emergency services space, please feel free to contact the shire and we can always direct you to the right person to talk to, or if you are considering being a Bush Fire Brigade member and would like to know more about what we do, what is expected from you and where we could use your help, I'm your gal – drop me an email, give me a call or just pop in to the shire office.

By choosing to volunteer, you aren't just learning a new skill or just protecting yourself—you are weaving a stronger, tighter fabric of community for the place you call home.

**Donna Forsyth – Emergency Services Officer, Shire of Boyup Brook.**



# SHIRE NEWS

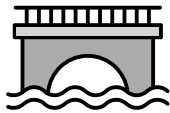
At the April Ordinary Council Meeting, Council endorsed the Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Plan 2026 – 2031.

The Shire of Boyup Brook Public Health Plan is a structured road map to support decision makers, health professionals, and communities in implementing health priorities through targeted actions and partnership.

It provides a strategic and sustainable framework to promote, prevent, protect and enable the health and wellbeing of all members of the community.

The Plan aligns with the Shire’s vision of “Growing our community together” and supports the priorities of the Western Australian State Public Health Plan by focusing on prevention, equity, and the creation of healthy environments.

For more information and to view the Public Health Plan please visit the Shire Website.



## Bridge Works in Boyup Brook

Fulton Hogan are currently undertaking bridge works within the Shire of Boyup Brook.

Works are scheduled for Bridge 3306 (Jayes Bridge) Jayes Rd: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026. A road closure was implemented 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 onwards. For more information and to view the detour map, please visit the Shire website <https://www.boyupbrook.wa.gov.au/news/bridge-works/709>



## 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.

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 Helen Hack

0427 673 032

Cr John Matthews

0439 920 717

Cr David Inglis

0418 651 088

Cr Philip Moore

0429 939 412

Cr Michael Wright

0427 191 785

Follow us



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