

April Newsletter 2025

President's Report



The position of GCA president remains vacant for any community minded person. Please contact Linda Johnson if you have an interest in Guilderton's future and representing the viewpoint of the locals.

Vice-president's Report

Thank you to those who came to the GCA annual general meeting in January to support the stalwart few who keep the Association going. Your committee really appreciate any contributions from our community as we are all there because we think it is worth our time. We hope that you do too.

We know how busy modern life is and you can find my AGM report separately in this edition to read if you would like to. The AGM minutes are on our website for viewing at guildertonwa.com.au

This summer has been unusual in the amount of time the Shire has advised against using the river. We wonder if this is a sign of things to come as our climate warms and there is increased pressure on the estuary from human use too?

FOMRE continue their water testing with DWER and are looking at further studies with Murdoch University and the Shire that might help enlighten us as to how the fish, algae, etc are reacting to the changes.

Our influx of swans to the estuary, (up to 33 this week) has been a delight for weeks now and we wonder how long they will stay. The estuary's cormorants, pelicans, ducks, gulls, terns and ospreys all seem quite happy so that must be a good sign!!

It certainly is 'election year', with our WA state results just decided, the federal poll due in May and our Shire elections in October. Congratulations to our Mid-West member Shane Love on his resounding re-election, no doubt largely due to his 'ear to the electorate'. He knows our area well and is very approachable if you have issues he can help with.

I hope that you are all well and enjoying the town and estuary as the seasons change.

All the best, Linda Johnson
Mobile: 0414 631 273

Guilderton Visitors Centre

March is drawing to a close, and we still are in the high thirties, I think we can call it an Indian summer.

Visitors Centre is going along quite nicely, we are down on numbers and volunteers, but takings remain quite good. We are finding visitors to the centre seem more interested now in our river and history of this wonderful town. We are now looking forward to school

holidays and Easter already - where is this year going?.

Everyone has been enjoying the black swans on the river as there are so many of them. I went for a walk along the foreshore, and was alarmed at the amount of droppings and size, there was quite an amount. After doing some reading up on them, I found out that they are good for the river providing much needed nutrients via their guano. They play an important role in maintaining the health of the aquatic ecosystem. Swans are not all monogamous as I was always led to believe, they have found cygnets don't always carry their father's DNA. Naughty black swans! They only swim with one leg with the other tucked up in their feathers, making it easier to escape from predators. They are nomadic and as you see now they have all gone elsewhere. Here ending the lesson, hope you found this as interesting as I did.

The river doesn't look anywhere near breaking through, hope now it lasts till Easter.

Enjoy our beautiful place.

Linda Buxton.

Lower Moore River Working Group.

At the end of February, we met with the new Shire CEO, Scott Wildgoose and Ruth March, Executive Manager Operations & Assets to discuss the way forward for the last stage of the Stephen's Crescent Boardwalk repair.

The response was so positive and the additional materials have been ordered. These will be available for our group of volunteers to complete this work as soon as the river level drops.

To replace the old wooden piles, we will be installing the Surefoot Pile Cap that offers a cost-effective and efficient foundation solution for boardwalks. It's both quick and an environmentally clean installation process that eliminates the need for concrete in our pristine river!



Once the boardwalk has been repaired, we will be looking for additional volunteers to help clear back the river track that has become overgrown during this boardwalk repair period.

Bob Johnson, LMRWG Secretary

Guilderton Foreshore Development Working Group:

There has not been a meeting of this group since March last year. The delays have been predominately caused by the changes in the Shire Council and staff. Hopefully discussions and plans can be held soon.

Feral Cats & Foxes:

The GCA brought this issue to the Shire's attention and they have been setting traps throughout the townsite to capture these animals. Foxes have been reported throughout the town and especially around the campsite. The Shire will be preparing a media release to provide educational tips to the community to deter feral animals.

Guilderton Community Hall – Air Conditioning

The GCA has made several requests in the past for the installation of a reverse cycle air conditioner for the community hall. The Shire has noted our request and it will be investigated by the Shire Asset Management Team. Hopefully this will increase the community hall's use throughout the hot and cold seasons.

Lower Coastal Community Association – Community Bus

The Community Bus is continuing to grow in popularity. Every Thursday there is a 'shopping trip' to town that is currently being generously subsidised by Bendigo Bank. Most trips go to Clarkson but there have been special trips to Ikea, Costco, Karrinyup Shopping Centre etc. We are always looking for volunteer drivers - standard driving licence, male or female and a happy smile!

Bob Johnson, LCCA 0417 186 805

Moore Arts Report Art/Craft Markets

The Guilderton Markets that are held in Gabbadah park over the summer are continuing to grow in size and diversity. Our last Market was on Saturday 1st of March from 9am to 1pm and we had 20 stallholders registered. This is the largest number of stallholders to date. These markets are run by Moore Art, a subcommittee of the GCA. The original idea was to have an art and craft market with totally handmade items for sale. Being such a small community, we realised we had to expand this theme to make the markets more successful.

We now include produce like honey, jams, chillies and chutneys, Reiki healing, garden ornaments and more. If you haven't been down in a while, check us out on Monday 21st of April 9 (Easter Monday). Woodridge Playgroup will be fundraising with a sausage sizzle and cake stall. Juicy Box will be there for coffee and juice.

Easter Art Exhibition

The annual Easter Art Exhibition will be held on Saturday 19th of April in the Guilderton Community Hall from 9am. This is another event run by Moore Art. Local arts have been a focus of effort in this community for over thirty years. Over this time, we have exhibited works in a full range of categories - paintings, ceramics, woodwork, textiles and photography. The theme of the work should be art of the area or artists who live in the area,

and the work will be generally considered as having artistic value.



We will have a silent auction this year thanks to a kind donation of a sculpture. Anyone wanting to make a bid can place their name and their offer on the list, the last offer for the day receives the prize. You need to monitor the bids and up your bid if you want it at the end of the day. If you are interested in exhibiting or interested in coming onto the art committee, please contact Kerry on 0437903138 or email guildertongca@gmail.com

Kerry Jones
Moore Arts Coordinator
0437903138

FOMRE Report

Protect Moore River's Natural Heritage
As the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Moore River Estuary (FOMRE) approaches we're reminded of the critical importance of grassroots environmental protection. On Easter Monday, 21st April @ 2pm, concerned citizens will gather @ Moore River Café to discuss the future of one of our region's most precious natural assets.

The Moore River estuary isn't just a picturesque backdrop for our community; it's a vital ecosystem that supports diverse wildlife and provides immeasurable value to our local environment. However, the looming threat of urbanization on its southern bank puts this delicate balance at risk.

FOMRE's unwavering commitment to preserving the estuary's ecological integrity is commendable. Our efforts represent the best of community activism – passionate locals coming together to safeguard a shared natural heritage.

As development pressures mount, the need for vigilant protection of our natural spaces has never been greater. The upcoming meeting isn't just for current FOMRE members; it's an open invitation to all who care about the future of our local environment.

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, consider attending this meeting. Your voice and support can make a real difference in shaping the future of the Moore River estuary. Let's ensure that this beautiful waterway remains a pristine legacy for generations to come.

Diana Papenfus on behalf of Linda Johnson
Email – lindabob@gmail.com
Mob – 0414 631 273

Community Library Report

Since Christmas we are pleased to announce that 7 new members have joined. We welcome them and hope we can accommodate their reading preferences. We are now able to source books through the Lancelin or Gingin libraries.

As you all are aware, over the Christmas break we hold our annual book stalls. This is a major event for us as it is where funds are generated.

Our comparison against last year has shown that we were slightly over last year's total. Thanks must go to everyone who assisted us with either donations on the build-up, or your patronage over the 4 weeks.

Some of our book donations this year are in excellent condition, some coming from as far afield as Nyabing and West Busselton.

Now would probably be an opportune time to list the following:

Due to space restrictions, we cannot accept any of the following:

- Encyclopaedias,

- Educational text books,
- Magazines, or
- Books which are torn, damaged or dirty.

We thank everyone sincerely for the great donations.

This year we have been invited again to hold a book stall at the Moore Men's Shed Open Day on Easter Saturday. On that day the library usually holds a free kids activity. This year they will be making a pot plant ornament.

As well as this important event we have decided to run another book stall outside the library on the same day. We are hoping that this will give us excellent exposure, so please come along and see what else is available.

Please check out the Northern Valley Times who have published a story on our Community Library,

Thank you
Madeleine Henshaw
Community Library Coordinator

Moore River Music Club

The Moore River Music Festival was another great success. The festival aims to showcase different genres of music with a focus on local acts and musicians. We are proud to have promoted and showcased seven excellent local bands, who otherwise do not get the opportunity to play in front of a home crowd.

Our Facebook page received over 70k views in the lead up.

The popular Grand Masters Rock Quiz was highlighted by the infamous giveaway of some rare Dutch coins. The marketing of which worked so well, we received a call from Canberra implying a crime would be committed by giving away potential heritage artefacts.

The two headline acts presented two different music genres - swing and jump blues, as well as a soul and R&B band. Attendance for both shows was lower than needed to bring these types of acts to the festival.

While we are already planning MRMF 26, it is disappointing that local community associations did not participate in the festival 25. Support from GCC has also waned and as a consequence, the Guilderton Community Hall with a bar service will be the primary venue for '26.

The MRMC thanks all the volunteers, local businesses, Gingin Shire, Bendigo Bank and the wonderful audiences that supported the festival. It has become an important event for local musicians, who otherwise do not get the opportunity to play in front of their local community. Local commercial venues continue to use non-local acts for the majority of live music nights, contrary to the campaign to support local businesses. Musicians are local self-employed businesses too.

We look forward to MRMF 26 with gusto and a renewed format. The struggling but excellent local bands and musicians will again be the mainstay performers for festival '26.

Thank you Guilderton,

Wil Cuperus

Moore River Music Club.

Secret Chef

Orange and double cooked Chinese duck salad

Ingredients

1 packet of Luvaduck roasted legs
1 packet of Asian salad greens
1 bunch of picked watercress if available
5 or 6 cos lettuce leaves, chopped
Water chest nuts, chopped
Cucumber, snow peas, red capsicum, red chili, all julienned
Carrot/cabbage shredded
2 spring onions, white part sliced
1 orange, segmented and halved
½ - 1 packet uncooked 2 minute noodles – crunched up by hand for garnish
Handful of peanuts, dry roasted in a pan, left to cool/harden
Coriander & mint leaves

Dressing

1 red chili, finely diced
1 garlic clove, finely diced
Juice of a lime cheek
1 dessert spoon of sugar
2 tblsp white vinegar
2 tblsp fish sauce
Orange juice to taste

Method

Make a dressing and play with ingredients till balanced but zesty – then leave to steep in the fridge.

Remove duck meat from bones and pull into bite sized pieces, add a little sprinkle of soy sauce or salt and roast for 15 minutes in an oven set to roast. Drain the fat and put the remaining crunchy bits on kitchen towels to drain and cool.

Assemble and mix everything in a bowl. Serve with crushed noodles and peanuts on top



Brandy Alexander cocktail

Ingredients (5)

185ml (3/4 cup) brandy

185ml (3/4 cup) creme de cacao or Tia Maria

185ml (3/4 cup) thin cream

1 cup crushed ice

Nutmeg, freshly grated to garnish

Method

Place the brandy, creme de cacao, cream and ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake until well combined. Strain through a sieve into serving glasses. Sprinkle with grated nutmeg and serve immediately.



Clean Up Gallery

Clean Up Australia in Guilderton on Sunday March 2nd was very successful, many thanks to the 32 volunteers including 8 from Gingin Scout Group and the lovely locals.

We took a trailer load to the tip as well as $\frac{3}{4}$ filling a skip bin with 10 cent containers and overfilling the skip bin that we thank the Shire for providing.



Our debrief at the Country Club over a sausage sizzle, drinks and watermelon was and no-one got hurt!



great

Linda Johnson for the GCA

AGM report

Vice President's Report to GCA AGM

2024 has been a quietish year for the GCA.

I attended the Shire Elector's meeting on Tuesday and am pleased to be able to read you my questions and the answers I have been given by Tasma Rush-Harvey, Governance Support Officer.

1 Paid Parking – Guilderton Foreshore

1.1 Now that 4 CCTV cameras have been installed in the foreshore carpark, please tell us who is monitoring them and what is any information collected being used for?

Response: The CCTV cameras on the foreshore were installed for community and property safety purposes and act as a deterrent to potential criminal activity.

1.2 How long is information stored for and do the cameras operate 24 hours a day?

Response: The footage is stored in accordance with WA Police CCTV guidelines which recommend a storage period of 30 days however footage is not actively monitored.

1.3 Who is allowed to access the information :from the cameras?

Response: The footage is only accessible to the CEO, the Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services, and the WA Police on request.

1.4 Paid parking was installed at Guilderton foreshore and has been operational since April 2018, 7am to 7pm 385 days a year (except for a short time during Covid and a brief winter hooing 2 years ago). How much total revenue has been collected and where is that money now?

Response:

*(a). Total collected from the metres \$530,700; and
\$363,400 Guilderton Foreshore Reserve
\$38,200 Guilderton Trailer Parking Reserve*

\$110,900 Parking maintenance

\$18,200 foreshore survey and design work

(b) Total collected from fines associated with foreshore parking infringements \$117,670

Applied to Guilderton foreshore maintenance (\$423,800) over the same period.

1.5 What are the Shire's intentions for the promised 'foreshore upgrades and what timeframe is current? (See response to following question)

1.6 Will the community be involved in Shire plans for any changes to Guilderton foreshore and its facilities?

Response: The community is involved in planning for the foreshore development through the Guilderton Foreshore Development Working Group which includes up to five community representatives. This group has met four times over the last financial year including review of a number of design options provided by the consultant and will continue this work over the coming months.

2 Jet Boat Racing – Moore River

2.1 On 8 December 2024 the first jet boat races were held on the estuary, with permits from the Dept of Transport and the agreement of the Shire. I understand that DoT has jurisdiction for behaviour on the estuary waters and the Shire has responsibility for the foreshore from the high water line.

2.2 Is the Shire intending to support future speed events on the estuary?

Response: The Shire has made no commitment to supporting future speed events on the estuary and will consider any request on its merits.

2.3 What actions do you propose to take to ameliorate the environmental damage to the estuary's unique fauna and riparian zone from speeding boats?

Response: While the most significant impact on the estuary's fauna and riparian zone remains the impact of nutrient run off from agricultural activity adjacent to the river, discussions have commenced with the Department of Transport, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on the future application and approval processes associated with events of this type.

Who is the Shire environmental officer?

Response: The Shire has no designated Environmental Officer. However environmental sustainability and preservation is recognised under the Shire's Strategic Community Plan. This drives decisions around understanding climate change and identifying actions to adapt/mitigate and developing policy and actions that support preservation activities.

3 Closure of Estuary to Swimming

Last February the Shire advised that the estuary was unsafe for swimming and 'closed the river.'

3.1 I understand that water testing of estuary waters for bacteria is conducted by the Shire for the Dept of Health?

Response: The Shire undertakes weekly water sampling between November and April each year as part of the Department of Health's Recreational Waters Monitoring Program. This has been ongoing for approximately 10 years and test results are reviewed by the Department of Health and the Shire's Environmental Health Officer. In the event that elevated bacterial levels are identified by qualified environmental health practitioners, the Shire notifies water users via social media and signs placed along the foreshore to alert water users to elevated risks associated with submerging while swimming.

3.2 How often is this done and where are the samples taken?

Response: Water samples are taken from the Moore River at Caraban Rocks (rope swing), Moore River Bridge and three sites along the foreshore area.

3.3 How can we know the results of this testing so that we can see the trends and decide if we should avoid swimming?

Response: Water sample results are not currently available to the public, however the Shire will open discussions with the Department of Health as to whether this data can be released publicly.

GCA is an affiliated Association and we have 2 sub-committees, the Visitor Centre and the Library. Thanks to Madelaine Henshaw and her team at the Library and Sharon Staude and the Visitor Centre work force.

I would also like to thank Katie Enright for her work obtaining Shire grant money to run the Easter music event in Gabbadah Park for the public last year. The only Shire grant applied for in the past year was by GVC for new brochures and signage. No events were run after the Easter concert and we didn't do Clean Up Australia in March 2024.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers in town including all the emergency services workers who service our town, the men of Moore Men's Shed, the Country Club, Golf Club and Bowling Club who are all not for profit community groups. As are the Lower Moore River Working Group, who have worked with the Shire to see the Stephen's

Cres boardwalk repair mean that the walk trail is soon to be open to us all again.

Friends of Moore River Estuary continue their voluntary work as does Neighbourhood Watch, Moore

Clothes and several other community groups that welcome any of us to join them.

We are pleased to again see the police presence in town over the summer holidays.

The Lower Coastal Communities Alliance of the local incorporated associations of Woodridge, Redfield Park, Sovereign Hill, Seabird, Neergabby and Guilderton have been working on acquiring a community bus for locals to use, for about 5 years (ie pre Covid). In 2023 they decided to incorporate and are now a separate Association with a special Bus sub-committee. The community bus is proving very popular and a great success, thanks to all involved, especially those facilitating weekly shopping trips for residents.

Thank you to all our wonderful community members who work so well in our town.

I would also like to thank all the committee for their conscientious work.

While we haven't had a President, the 7 of us have been busy.

Bob Johnson as our efficient secretary, Andrew McKean as our diligent treasurer, Kerry Jones for all her efforts with the Arts group, conducting the Easter Arts and the Markets, as well as being our webmaster and creating a policy manual for ease of transition for new committee members. Also Linda Buxton for her work with the Visitor Centre and Wil Cuperus for all his work in the town's music scene and we also welcomed Jacqui Bobridge to the team.

Bruce Maguire has continued to collate the quarterly newsletter to keep you all informed of our activities over the year. Many thanks Bruce.

This year we will reduce to 3 issues, in April, September and December.

2024 started in its usual busy fashion but unfortunately vandals managed to dig the sandbar through in mid-January which lowered the river level by a couple of meters.

The resultant exposure of rotting vegetation and the reduced protection from our brown waters led to a steep rise in water temperature and therefore bacteria in the water, which led the Shire to recommend no swimming in the estuary over the Australia Day long weekend and again in February. The first time, in my 30 years here, that that has happened. Fortunately no long term damage was

done as the estuary is still well filled by the fresh water springs up river.

Another unfortunate consequence of this bacterial event was that there was no VacSwim in the estuary again this year, a Shire and Health Dept decision.

As you heard earlier, we have asked the Shire Health officer for information to be shared with us.

Breaking the sandbar has happened less this year thankfully. The river has been running to the south of the sandbar, which has built up to be quite thick this summer. The erosion of the dunes south of the sandbar is natural and no cause for concern.

The Guilderton Foreshore Development Working Group which includes 5 community members, Dean Brady, Bob Johnson, John Punch, Rona Chiara and Joel Collins, last met in March. The Shire is yet to announce another meeting.

Again we thank Tracey Hagan, the Shire gardener for her indefatigable work in the town and the new contract cleaner who do their best with the old, tired foreshore facilities.



GUILDERTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Inc

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ABN 12 206 179 741

Email: guildertongca@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM 2025

\$15 Single Membership and \$30 Double Membership

Member Name(s) _____

Postal Address* _____

City _____ State _____ P/code _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ P/code _____

Email * _____

Phone* _____

Please return this Form to the GCA (guildertongca@gmail.com) and payment by:

- Cheque posted to GCA PO Box 1101, Guilderton. WA 6041
- EFT to GCA at Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 A/c 145 418 018 Please use your surname as reference with payment.
- * indicates the mandatory information required