

Community News



SHIRE OF IRWIN
DONGARA-PORT DENISON
A BRILLIANT BLEND

Shire President Update

The 2026/27 budget was adopted by Council at a Special Meeting last week. Each year, Council carefully prepares a budget that balances the needs of our growing community with the responsibility of managing public funds wisely. While we continue to secure funding through grants, fees, charges and other revenue sources wherever possible, rates remain the Shire's primary source of income, accounting for around two-thirds of our operating revenue.

These rates enable us to deliver the services and infrastructure our community relies on every day. Looking ahead, Council is taking a proactive approach to the Shire's long-term financial sustainability, focusing on maintaining the assets and services our community already relies on and careful consideration of future commitments, ensuring projects are planned and affordable over their full life.

Like many households and businesses, local government continues to face rising costs due to inflation. Council understands the financial pressures many residents are experiencing and has carefully considered the impact when preparing this year's budget. As a result, Council adopted a 5% rate increase for 2026/27, balancing affordability with our ability to continue delivering essential services and infrastructure.

Please remember if you are having difficulty paying your rates, the Shire has payment arrangements available and encourages you to contact us to discuss the options.



It was wonderful to officially open the new Port Denison Boat Ramp

and Floating Jetty this month.

The project has had its challenges so seeing the facility open and being enjoyed by our community is very rewarding.

I would like to thank everyone involved in bringing this project to completion, particularly Shire staff, Port Denison Volunteer Marine Rescue and the Western Australian Government, which provided funding through the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme and the Small Grants Program.

Thanks to everyone who came along to celebrate this important milestone with us, including the Hon Sandra Carr MLA, who represented the Minister for Regional Development, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Chair of the Mid West Development Commission, Lara Dalton and CEO Nils Hays, and the team from the Department of Transport.

Most importantly, thank you to our community for your patience throughout what has been a challenging project.

This month we held our Strategic Community Plan workshops and drop-in sessions. It was fantastic to hear directly from residents about what matters most to them and what they would like to see for our community over the next decade and beyond.



We also conducted phone interviews for those who were unable to make the workshops.

Your feedback will help Council identify the services and community assets that matter most and guide our priorities for the future.

Thank you for your continued interest, engagement and support. The

September 2026

strength of our Shire comes from the people who live, work and invest here, and your involvement helps us make better decisions for our community's future.

CR Isabelle Scott

Irwin Library News

This month we celebrated Book Week and we were so pleased to welcome nearly 50 Dongara District High School kindy and pre-primary students to the library to enjoy the magic of books and storytelling.

A special thank you goes to our dedicated library volunteers, Janette and Tanya, who went above and beyond to make the visit memorable. They transformed the library with colourful decorations, dressed in fantastic costumes and brought stories to life through reading and singing.



We are incredibly grateful for the time, creativity and enthusiasm Janette and Tanya contribute to our community and our library. Their efforts helped create a fun and engaging Book Week experience for our youngest readers.



Sands of Denison is back!

Get ready for a great weekend of classic cars and beach sprint racing at South Beach, Port Denison.

On 12-13 September, the Veteran & Classic Car Club of WA will bring a fantastic line-up of vintage and classic cars to the beach for two days of racing, with plenty to see for motorsport fans and families alike.

When - 12-13 September 2026 from 8.30am-2pm

Where - South Beach, Port Denison

Organised by the Veteran & Classic Car Club of WA and proudly supported by the Shire of Irwin.

Come down, enjoy the atmosphere and watch some classic cars take on the sand!



Dongara Denison Drive-Ins



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(08) 9927 0000 | reception@irwin.wa.gov.au | PMB 21, Dongara WA 6525 | www.irwin.wa.gov.au