

EMPOWERING YOUTH PLAN

2022-2027



Natural | Connected | Prosperous



BOODJA - LAND, COUNTRY, MOTHER EARTH
- IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE. NO
MATTER WHAT CULTURE OR RELIGION - ALL
OF US RELY ON NALA BOODJA, OUR COUNTRY.

Acknowledgement of Country

“Kaya, Nala Maat Kaya Noonduk (Hello, Our Family Welcomes You) to Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People’s Country) – we all come together on Boodja (Country). Whilst on Wadandi Boodja we ask that you respect the land by walking softly and take the time to listen to Boodja as she Wongi (Talks).

We respect the presence of the Demmala Goomala (Ancestors) whose Djanga (Spirits) reside on Boodja and whose djenna (feet) walk the land and whose Djanga Korda (heart spirit) flows through all creation.

Wooditup (Margaret River) is the heart of Wadandi Boodja (country), a meeting place between land and sea, connecting us all with Wadandi Boodja.

The Wadandi Boodja (Motherland) reaches from Bunbury, along the coast of Geographe Bay, extending to Yallingup (Place of Holes) to Talinup, Augusta (Place of Reeds) inland to Nannup (The Stopping Place), taking in the region of Undalup (Busselton) The Wadan Boodja (Sea Country) is of great spiritual significance to the coastal Wadandi people.

It is up to all of us to listen to the land, understand the connection to Country that we all have and realise how urgent it is to work together to make better decisions on how we can create that balance, ensuring sustainability for the generations to come, in order to protect and preserve the beauty of Boodja.

Whilst living, travelling, visiting and holidaying on Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People’s Country) we ask that you respect the area and walk softly on the country, taking the time to listen to Boodja (Country) as she Wongi (Talks) of the Season, and leave nothing but footprints”.

**Wadandi Traditional Cultural Custodian Wayne
“Wonitji” Webb.**

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River acknowledges we are on Wadandi and Pibelman Boodja, whose ancestors and their descendants are the traditional owners of this country.

We acknowledge the Wadandi and Pibelman have been custodians since the land was soft (creation times) and continue to perform age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

The Shire is committed to Aboriginal Australians sharing fairly and equitably in the region’s cultural, social, environmental and economic future.



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This document is available in alternative formats upon request including in large and standard print, electronically by email, in audio on CD and on the Shires website at **amrshire.wa.gov.au**.



ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Shire will deliver on the following four focus areas to achieve the future vision of our community. The Empowering Youth Plan 2022 – 2027 comes under the future focus area People.





MESSAGE FROM IMPORTANT PEOPLE

As the Shire of Augusta Margaret River continues to grow and change, we're committed to supporting, valuing and empowering our youth. Young people play an important role within our community as our future and current leaders.

The Empowering Youth Plan 2022 – 2027 sets out key themes, opportunities and actions that have been developed through a broad community engagement process with over 400 locals. The consultation has given us a deeper understanding of the young people of our community.

The Empowering Youth Plan 2022 – 2027 will guide Shire to deliver meaningful youth support and services, consider youth perspectives when making

decisions and plan for the future. It sets out a framework for the future which outlines the Shire's role in providing services, support and youth development.

Young people contribute enthusiasm, innovation and energy to our community, and we are looking forward to continuing to work with them through the Empowering Youth Plan 2022 – 2027 over the next five years.



Cr Ian Earl
Shire President



**Stephanie
Addison-Brown**
Chief Executive Officer

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

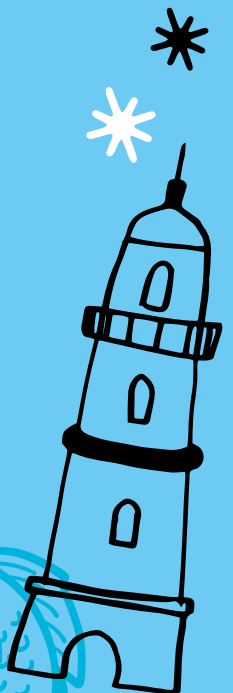
The Augusta Margaret River Youth Advisory Council are proud to have been involved in the development of the Empowering Youth Plan 2022 – 2027, assisting in the community engagement process, surveying community members, planning events and contributing ideas, suggestions and opinions as representatives of the youth of our community.

The goal areas of the Empowering Youth Plan 2022 – 2027 reflect the challenges, opportunities and vision for the youth of our community over the next five years.

We are excited to help deliver the Empowering Youth Plan 2022 – 2027 through the Youth Advisory Council and achieve the collective community vision for young people now and into the future.

OUR VISION

Our Young People will grow and thrive within a supportive, safe and inclusive community.





OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL GROW
AND THRIVE WITHIN A SUPPORTIVE,
SAFE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.





WHO ARE WE?

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016

Population

16,172 2019 est.

Male 50%

Female 50%



Median age **39**

Families **3678**

Born in Australia **69.6%**

Aboriginal people **1.4%**

Couples with children **43.2%**

Couples with no children **42.2%**

One parent family **14%**

Internet Connection – **5%**
of homes in the Shire of Augusta

Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander
107

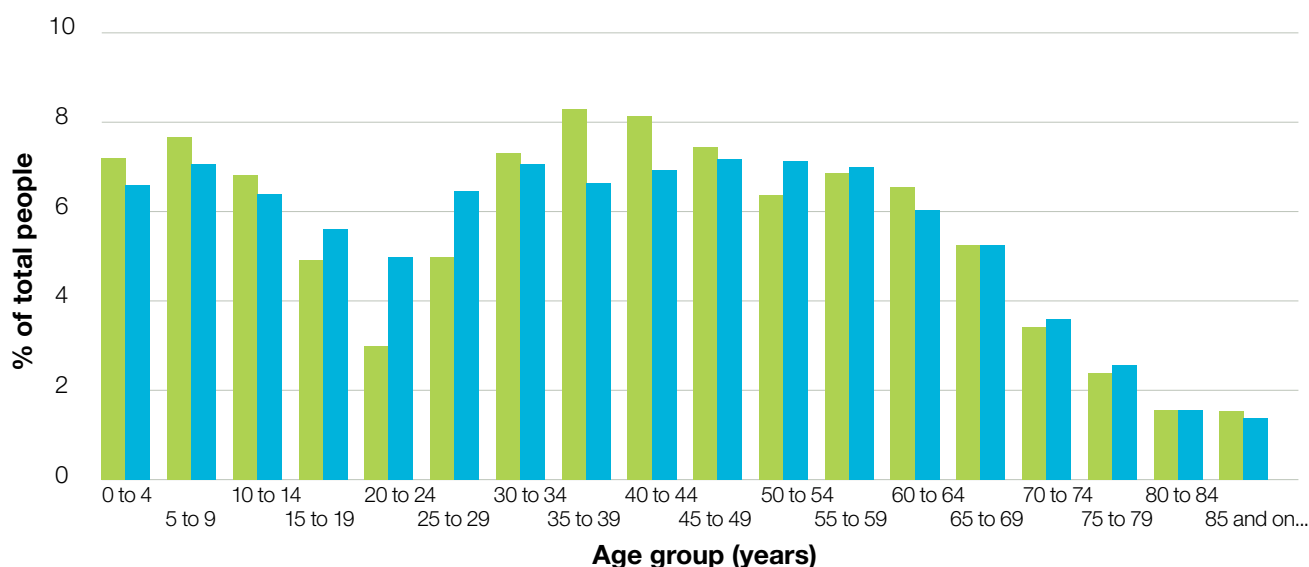
235 Youth aged
15 to 24 years old
perform voluntary work

64 youth aged
0 to 24 had need
for assistance due to
disability

Age structure – five year age groups, 2016

Total persons

Shire of Augusta-Margaret River Regional WA

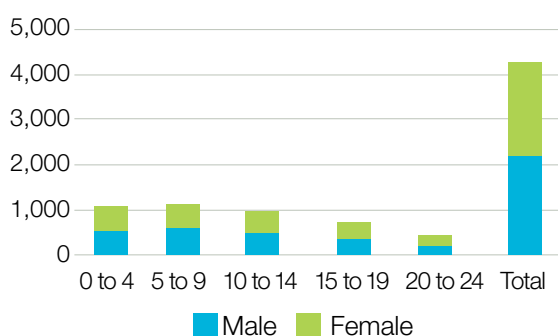


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.
id by .id (informed decisions).

Youth Data

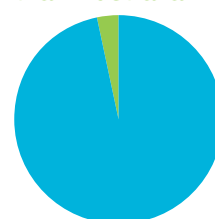
Age	Male	Female
0 to 4	531	495
5 to 9	585	511
10 to 14	508	470
15 to 19	374	332
20 to 24	211	221
Total	2,209	2,029

Age by Sex



Birth Place

Australia **1,880**
Country other than Australia **60**



SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Watch a movie at Margaret River HEART
- Join roller skate classes
- Go to the Farmers Market
- Outdoor movies at Cape Mentelle
- Join Woven Cowaramup

Cowaramup and District: BMX Track, Cowaramup Oval, Skatepark

Margaret River: BMX Track, Gloucester Park, Nippers Oval, Rec Centre, Library, Margaret River Youth Precinct, Lower Western Oval, The Pines

Forest Grove and Surrounds

Karridale: Alexandra Bridge and surrounds

Augusta: Civic Park, Rec Centre, Library, Skatepark

City of Busselton

Shire of Nannup

SPORTING GROUPS

You can join: Basketball, soccer rugby, dance, martial arts, BMX, hockey, cricket, netball, horse riding

ANNUAL EVENTS

Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival, Emergence Creative Festival, Agricultural Show, Augusta River Festival, Deja Moo, CinefestOZ, Drug Aware Surf Pro, SAMM Fest, Youth Week Event, Healthy Habitz, Zone Room School Holiday Programs, Mud Fest.

WHAT GROUPS CAN I JOIN?

You can join: YAC, Yeah the Boyz, Artzability, Q-Squad, Margaret River Unlimited, Auslan Chats, Radio Margaret River, Church Youth Groups, Scouts, Arts Margaret River, Margaret River Lions, Margaret River Theatre Group.

SWIMMING SPOTS

Gnarabup, Redgate Beach, Hamelin Bay, Cowaramup Bay.

SURF BREAKS

Contos Beach, Main Break, Surfers Point, Joeys Nose, The Box.

LOOKING FOR

Beyond Blue, Margaret River High School, Revolve Psychology, Brain Change Therapy, Waratah/GP Down South, Escaping Domestic Violence, Alcohol and Drug Info Service, Headspace, Accordwest.

SUPPORT?



CORE PRINCIPLES

Our core principles describe the values and ethos which drives our decision making as a community led body. These principles have been drafted and defined by the Elected Members of the Shire.





DEVELOPING THE NEW PLAN



What we did

Between March 2021 to May 2021 research into relevant policy context, meetings with key stakeholders and extensive community engagement was undertaken to capture the range of views, suggestions and feedback that the community had for youth (12 to 25 year olds) over the next five years.

Participation was encouraged and invited through a range of forums including a verbal survey, online surveys, youth summit, workshops, video competition and stakeholder meetings. Previous youth engagement from the 2040 workshops, 2020 Councillor for Day Excursion and Family Dinner project have been included in the feedback for the

development of the Empowering Youth Plan 2022 - 2027. The engagement undertaken between March and May 2021, has provided depth and richness to the feedback received and insight into the young people of our community.

Focused engagement occurred with youth living in townsites other than Margaret River such as Cowaramup and Augusta, and community groups including YAC, Artzability and the Q-Squad. A total of 438 community members across the Shire engaged in the consultation process with 74% of all responses from youth (up to 25 years old).

What we heard

Outlined below is a brief summary of the key feedback we received:

What's working well?	What are the challenges?	Wishes for the future
Sporting groups and recreation centre. Community connection. The natural environment including the beaches, forests and land. The Youth Precinct and youth events.	There is a lack of public transport in the Shire. There is a lack of education, training and employment once graduating high school. Boredom and a lack of things to do in free time. Mental health challenges and lack of support and services. Drug and alcohol challenges, including peer pressure and lack of education.	Increased mental health support and services. Affordable and accessible transport. More diverse range of activities, events and workshops held. Increased tertiary education opportunities. Drug and alcohol support and information. Preservation of the natural environment.



OUR KEY FOCUS AREAS

The four following goal areas have been established through extensive consultation, feedback and research, they are supported by objectives and actions that will help guide the Shire to achieve the community vision for youth now and into the future.

Goal	Celebration, Acceptance and Support	Education, Training and Employment	Movement, Transport and Facilities	Community Contribution and Leadership
Youth vision	To access affordable support services and enjoy inclusive events and programs.	To access education, employment and training opportunities for financial independence, exploration and growth.	To have various modes of transport in the Shire and safe pathways making townsites more accessible.	To contribute to our community through volunteering, leadership and action.
Objective/s	<p>Accessible and affordable mental health support for youth.</p> <p>Services and preventative information on drugs and alcohol for youth and youth carers.</p> <p>Visibility and equity.</p> <p>Events and programs that promote and celebrate youth.</p>	<p>Education and training opportunities.</p> <p>Employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Safe and accessible modes of transport.</p> <p>Quality youth facilities.</p>	<p>Volunteering and leadership opportunities.</p> <p>Environmental and social action.</p>



OUR ROLE

Provide – we provide a wide range of mandatory and discretionary services to the community.

Regulate – we regulate compliance with legislation on behalf of the state government, including town planning, animal management, public health, signage, parking and more.

Facilitate – we work to bring agencies and people together to make it possible or easier to meet community needs within our limited resources.

Advocate – we are a voice for the community and promote local interests.

Fund – we directly fund organisations and community led initiatives which deliver our community vision.



ACTION PLAN

Goal 1: Celebration, acceptance and support.

To access affordable support services and enjoy inclusive events and programs.

	When
Objective 1: Accessible and affordable mental health support for young people	
Facilitate the development of a youth led support group which may be in the form of a group activity each week or group that gets together to chat.	New 2023/24
Facilitate and provide increased mental health awareness and reduce stigma through workshops, accessible information, education, etc.	Continuing
Facilitate relationships with current service providers (such as Headspace and Mindful Margaret River) and support them where possible to promote awareness of their services and programs to the wider community i.e. My Community Directory.	Continuing
Advocate for improved youth mental health facilities and services.	Continuing
Facilitate, fund and provide programs and partnerships with MRSHS, South Regional TAFE and other educational institutions to deliver youth support programs.	Continuing
Facilitate and advocate for appropriate youth mental health training to support youth such as youth mental health first aid training, peer support training, applied suicide intervention skills training etc.	Continuing
Provide and fund a youth outreach service at the Margaret River Youth Precinct and explore options to expand programs in appropriate and accessible ways.	Continuing

Objective 2: Services and preventative information on drugs and alcohol for youth and youth carers

Advocate for drug and alcohol support services that are accessible, local, affordable and confidential.	New 2025/26
Advocate and promote the school leavers program via drug and alcohol intervention and education.	Continuing
Provide and promote drug and alcohol-free events.	Continuing
Increased drug and alcohol awareness through workshops, education, information and programs.	Continuing
Facilitate the Margaret River Local Drug Action Group through youth activities.	Continuing
Support MRSHS, South Regional TAFE and other services to promote and inform young people on drug and alcohol related matters.	New 2024/25

Objective 3: Visibility and equity

Fund and facilitate community groups (Yeah the Boyz, Artzability, Q-Squad) to hold workshops, activities, gatherings and/or events that promote an inclusive and accessible community.	Continuing
Facilitate and advocate to services and local networks to promote greater visibility of LGBTQIA+ young people within the local area (such as LGBTQIA+ signage in local stores).	New 2023/24
Advocate and explore where Shire facilities, including toilets, can be more accessible and inclusive.	New 2025/26

Objective 4: Events and programs that promote and celebrate young people

Provide, facilitate and fund a range of events that appeal to the diversity of our youth, reflecting varied interests, hobbies, ages, backgrounds and demographic profiles.	Continuing
Provide and facilitate greater diversity in event locations to encourage a place-based approach to youth events.	New 2026/27
Provide, facilitate and fund programs (such as workshops, initiatives and activities) that suit a range of ages and interests such as technology and gaming and arts and culture.	Continuing
Fund, facilitate and provide events to activate the Margaret River Youth Precinct.	Continuing
Provide and facilitate youth activities, programs, workshops and services through the Recreation Centre, HEART and Library.	Continuing



Goal 2: Education, Training and Employment

To access education and employment opportunities for financial independence, exploration and growth.

	When
Objective 1: Education and training opportunities	
Advocate for a larger selection of tertiary education opportunities such as remote learning.	New 2026/27
Provide a range of work experience opportunities for young people as requested.	Continuing
Facilitate and fund youth training programs that are free or inexpensive.	Continuing
Objective 2: Employment opportunities	
Provide and look to expand traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities within the various business units of the Shire, such as the community development traineeship, Parks and Garden traineeship and mechanics apprenticeship.	Continuing
Fund and facilitate programs focusing on life skills education for young people e.g. budgeting, tax returns, job interviews and resume writing.	New 2024/25
Advocate for the importance of accessible and inclusive employment, that enables youth with diverse backgrounds and abilities to be employed.	Continuing
Advocate for increased traineeship, apprenticeship and employment opportunities in local business.	New 2025/26

Goal 3: Movement, Transport and Facilities

To have modes of transport in the Shire and safe pathways making townsites more accessible.

	When
Objective 1: Safe and accessible modes of transport	
Advocate for accessible and affordable shared transport (such as buses or bikes) across the Shire and connecting with other cities e.g. Bunbury, Busselton, Perth.	New 2024/25
Provide, facilitate and advocate for a safe transport network of pathways and trails which better connects the Shire.	Continuing
Objective 2: Quality youth facilities	
Explore the possibility of creating a youth space (including a skatepark) within Augusta.	New 2026/27
Provide and maintain the Margaret River Youth Precinct and Cowaramup Youth Precinct.	Continuing
Provide the Zone Room and Margaret River Youth Precinct Hall for hire with focus on youth programs (including birthdays) and services.	Continuing

Goal 4: Community Contribution and Leadership

To contribute to our community through volunteering, leadership and action.

When	
Objective 1: Volunteering and leadership opportunities	
Provide and facilitate the Youth Advisory Council throughout the year.	Continuing
Provide communications to youth through relevant social media platforms.	Continuing
Facilitate and advocate for local community groups to identify opportunities for young people to volunteer and be involved in the community.	New 2023/24
Provide and facilitate youth participation in different capacities (i.e. volunteering, leading, participating) in a range of programs, events and projects (such as Councillor for a Day, SAMM Fest and Augusta River Festival).	Continuing
Provide the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual Thank a Volunteer Event.	Continuing
Objective 2: Environmental and social action	
Advocate for youth environmental and climate change concerns.	Continuing
Provide and support youth to advocate for their environmental and social priorities such as hosting banner painting workshops and assisting youth to fill out event applications/booking forms etc.	Continuing
Facilitate environmental workshops and/or activities such as but not limited to clean up days, tree planting workshops, possum home building etc.	Continuing





Shire of Augusta Margaret River

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Office Hours: Mon to Fri, 9am – 4pm

Phone Enquiries: 8am – 4.30pm

Augusta Administration Office

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Augusta WA 6290

P: 08 9780 5660

F: 08 9758 0033

Office Hours: Mon to Fri, 9am – 4pm
(closes for lunch 12pm – 1pm)

Phone Enquiries: 8am – 4.30pm

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If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service:

- TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for 08 9780 5255
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 08 9780 5255
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS (www.relayservice.com.au) then ask for 08 9780 5255