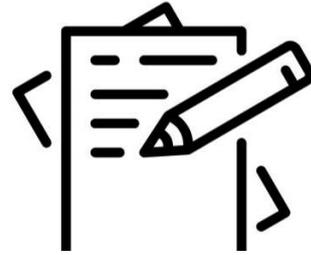


CEO UPDATE



March 2026

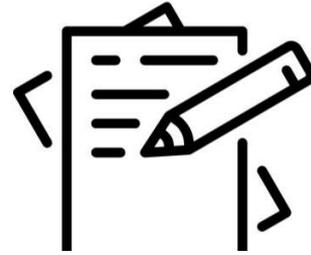
As we move further into the year, I would like to take the opportunity to update our community on a number of matters currently taking place across the Shire.

Fuel Supply Update - Many residents will be aware of the current challenges surrounding fuel supply across the region. The Shire continues to liaise with fuel providers and monitor the situation closely, and when there is new information available, we will ensure the community is kept informed. I would like to sincerely thank members of the community for the patience and consideration that has been shown during this time. It has been encouraging to see people being mindful of others and ensuring fuel remains accessible to everyone who needs it. We remain hopeful that supply will improve over the coming weeks and will continue to keep residents updated as the situation develops. Many residents will have noticed activity at the former BP Service Station site. The fuel tanks have now been drained, and permits have been issued for the demolition of the old service station building. This work will see the site cleared soon.

Community Sundowner and Volunteer Recognition - February's Community Sundowner was a fantastic evening and it was wonderful to see such a strong turnout from across the community. These events provide an opportunity to recognise the many volunteers who contribute so much to Bruce Rock. On the evening, we were also proud to present bushfire service medals to several deserving members of our local bushfire brigades. Recognising the dedication of our emergency services volunteers is incredibly important. These presentations now take place twice a year – once during the October Town Hall event and again at the February Community Sundowner. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success.

Notre Dame Medical Immersion Program Last week we were pleased to host medical students from the University of Notre Dame as part of their Medical Immersion Program. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. Many commented on what a welcoming and impressive community Bruce Rock is, and several expressed a strong interest in maintaining connections with the town in the future. Programs such as this are incredibly valuable for regional communities. They allow us to showcase the quality of life and facilities we offer while encouraging future medical professionals to consider careers in regional areas. Bruce Rock once again demonstrated itself to be a community that leaves a very positive and lasting impression. As part of the immersion program, a mass casualty emergency exercise was conducted involving local emergency services, the Shire, and the participating medical students. The exercise simulated a major emergency scenario and provided an excellent opportunity to test and challenge our volunteer emergency response capabilities. The exercise was coordinated by St John Ambulance and overseen by WA Police. Medical students participated in a range of roles, including acting as casualties, which helped create a realistic training environment. The event was well attended by members of the community and provided a valuable learning experience for everyone involved. Feedback from the post-exercise debrief was extremely positive, and I would like to thank all volunteers, emergency services personnel and organisers who made the exercise possible.

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Strategic Community Plan Consultation - The Shire has commenced community consultation for the review of our Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan. We are working with consultancy firm 150 Square to assist in gathering feedback from residents, businesses, clubs and community groups.

A consultation session was recently held at the Town Hall and this week we are engaging with sporting clubs and community organisations to gather their input. In the coming weeks, the Shire President and I also intend to visit the townsites of Babakin, Ardath and Shackleton to ensure residents in those communities have an opportunity to provide feedback before Council undertakes further consultation towards the end of April. These sessions provide an opportunity for community members to share their views and help shape the future direction of the Shire. I encourage residents to keep an eye on notice boards and social media for details of upcoming sessions. Refreshments will be provided and we welcome as many community members as possible to attend.

Budget Planning for 2026–2027 - Work is already underway on preparing the 2026–2027 Shire budget. Council recently completed a budget review in February. Maintaining and improving our infrastructure continues to be a key priority. In the coming weeks we will invite community members, clubs and organisations to submit suggestions for capital projects for consideration as part of the budget process. Further details will be provided through the Shire’s website, social media and notice boards, and I encourage anyone with ideas or proposals to participate in the process.

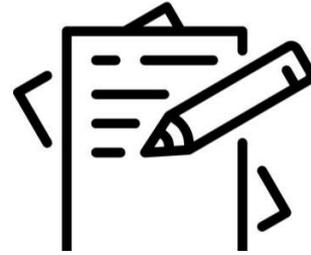
Caravan Park Improvements - Work is currently underway to improve facilities at the Bruce Rock Caravan Park, particularly the backpacker chalets. These chalets will soon receive a fresh coat of paint and new air conditioning units will be installed to improve comfort for visitors. Our caravan park continues to receive very positive feedback from travellers and visitors to the town. Maintaining and continually improving this facility is important as it plays a key role in welcoming visitors and supporting tourism within Bruce Rock.

Aquatic Centre Season - It has been another excellent season at the Bruce Rock Aquatic Centre, which has been extremely busy throughout the summer months. The recently installed pool heat mat has performed very well, keeping the water at a comfortable temperature for swimmers throughout the season.

Brett and his team have done an outstanding job maintaining the facility and ensuring the safety of patrons. Patronage this season has already significantly exceeded last year’s numbers, and we have welcomed many visitors from outside the Shire who have provided very positive feedback about the facility.

At the end of this month Bruce Rock will also host the E-Rotary WA Swim for Reading event, where Bruce Rock will compete against Narembeen. Please let’s have as many persons as possible, register for this event and we wish our local swimmers the very best and look forward to what should be a great community event.

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Main Street Revitalisation Project - The Shire continues to work diligently on the Main Street Revitalisation Project, particularly the concept for the area between the amphitheatre and the Veterans Bunker. The proposal includes a playground and landscaped lawned areas that will create a welcoming community gathering space which complements both the Memorial Park and the recently upgraded amphitheatre. Concept designs and plans are now nearing completion, and we intend to submit a funding application to Lotterywest in the coming months. We look forward to sharing the concept with the community in the near future, as this project represents one of the most significant initiatives currently being progressed by the Shire.

Roads and Infrastructure - During February, the Shire successfully completed the Black Spot project, (Bruce Rock Cumminin Road intersection), and is now moving onto Old Beverley Road to undertake further construction work on this road. The Shire has also completed inspections of all road infrastructure and submitted updated data. This information is extremely important as it supports our case when seeking funding for road maintenance and improvements. In addition, the Shire is currently undertaking bridge inspections across the district. These annual inspections help ensure that our bridge infrastructure remains safe and also assist us in securing funding to maintain these critical assets.

Welcoming New Staff to the Shire - Over the past few months the Shire has undertaken an active recruitment process which has resulted in several new staff joining the organisation. Our new staff bring valuable experience and energy to the organisation and, together with our existing team, are committed to delivering the best possible service to our community. We are looking forward to a productive year ahead and to continuing to deliver positive outcomes for Bruce Rock.

Wishing everyone all the best and I look forward to catching up across the townsites very soon.

Mark

Chief Executive Officer