

Shire of Bruce Rock

Newsletter

December 2023



Shire of
Bruce Rock

Where friends become family



As we head into the Christmas break and approach the end of 2023, this is a good opportunity to reflect on the year that has been.

2023 has been a busy and important year for Council and the Bruce Rock community, with the highlight being the completion and official opening of the new supermarket and hardware store, an achievement that will benefit generations to come. As the CEO of the Shire of Bruce Rock, I am extremely proud of the work that Council and the community have done to bring this essential project to fruition. Whilst the supermarket has been a major focus, we have continued to deliver for the community in other key areas. The Shire has completed a significant roads program, maintained the townsites and completed other important projects, while continuing to meet governance and compliance requirements and planning for the future.

At the start of 2023, we had a significant changeover of administration staff, including two senior managers. I am pleased to say that the new team has combined well to continue to focus on driving the Shire forward and achieve the best outcomes for Council and the community.

This year we also saw a significant change in Council's make up, with a reduction in the number of Councillors from nine to seven, and the retirement of long-term President Stephen Strange.

As we head into 2024, I look forward to continuing to work with Council on new and exciting projects, including the review of the Main Street Revitalization, the ongoing improvement of our communication strategies and customer service levels, the attraction of funding for a new adventure playground to be built next to the amphitheatre, the identification of economic development opportunities working in partnership with local businesses and the community, and the expansion of our housing stock options to address the accommodation shortage that is impacting not only Bruce Rock, but the wider Wheatbelt Region.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Council, staff and the community for their continued support. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.



Merry
CHRISTMAS

Darren Mollenoyux



From the Works Manager

Manager of Works and Services

I recently advised Council that I will be leaving the Shire at the end of January 2024. Council will undertake a recruitment process in the first quarter of 2024. In the meantime, Brock Williams will step up as Acting Manager of Works and Services. All roads programs and scheduled works for the 2023/2024 budget will continue as planned and are on track for completion by the end of June 2024.

Roadworks

The roads program has continued until stand down on the 21st December 2023, and will recommence after a short break on the 3rd January 2024. Recent construction works were completed on Crombie, Shepard and Hadlow Roads. Gravel works are well underway on Old Beverly Road. Sealing works on parts of the Shackleton Kellerberrin Road will be undertaken mid to late January.

Attendance at Fires

Over the past month several staff have been busy assisting the local fire brigades and farmers with a number of fires. Council staff continue to provide support where possible, including providing graders and loaders for fire breaks, as well as our large and small water trucks. We thank all farmers and brigade members for their cooperation, support and guidance during these emergencies.

Shire Dams

Staff and contractors have been working on cleaning out the Shire dams during summer, as well as installing root barriers. This will assist in continuing to improve our water catchment network through the Shire and will reduce our reliance on scheme water for ovals, parks and gardens.

Airstrip Reseal

The resealing of the Bruce Rock Airstrip was undertaken at the start of December 2023. Council received a grant through the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program to undertake the following works:

- Reseal of full East / West Runway - this is a S45R 7mm single coat seal with crumbed rubber component
- Upgrade of electrical components
- New radio and pilot operated landing light system
- Install of new runway edge markers



Thank you

The Works Team would like to thank the community for its support and patience during the year, as it continues to maintain and improve the road network, undertake town works and maintain the parks and gardens throughout the Shire to make Bruce Rock a place to be proud of.

We wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas. Take care on the roads!



Dave Holland



Update from the CDO

Community Sundowner

Our Annual Community Sundowner will be held on the 9th February 2024. The sundowner is an excellent way to kick start the year after the January holidays, welcome new residents to our community, and recognise the phenomenal volunteer efforts of our community members. The Sundowner will feature kids entertainment, live music, food and beverages. Stay tuned in early 2024 for more details. At the Sundowner, Council will present its annual Volunteer and Sporting Awards. The Sporting Awards are usually presented at the Winter Sports Gala Dinner. However, due to this event not occurring in 2023, the presentation has been moved to coincide with the Community Sundowner. Nominations for the Sporting Awards must be made by a Sporting Club within the Shire of Bruce Rock. If you are aware of a worthy nominee, please get in touch with the relevant Sporting Club to discuss a potential nomination. The Volunteer Awards recognise significant service to the Bruce Rock Community, and can recognise achievements from the last 12 months, or continuous years of service. Our community, along with all rural towns, would not function without volunteers. The Volunteer Awards are a fantastic opportunity to formally recognise our many unsung heroes.

Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program

The Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program will be running again in 2024. This is jointly organised by Rural Health West and Notre Dame University, and sees groups of approximately 20 first-year medical students visit Wheatbelt towns for four days to experience the reality of living in a rural community. The program has been running for a few years now, and there have been success stories of students who visited choosing to undertake rural work further in their studies and careers. The students will be in Bruce Rock between the 12th and the 15th March 2024. If you are interested in hosting a couple of students at your home, please get in touch with Rural Health West on 08 6389 4567 or futureworkforce@ruralhealthwest.com.au.





BACK TO THE BUSH VETERANS REUNION

30 OCT - 6 NOV 2024

BRUCE ROCK, WA



**INVITING ALL PAST & PRESENT MILITARY
PERSONNEL FOR A WEEK OF MATESHIP AND
COMMEMORATION**

ACTIVITIES ALL WEEK

COMMEMORATIVE MARCH

10TH LIGHT HORSE
KIDS ENTERTAINMENT
SPORTS ACITIVITES

MARKETS
LIVE MUSIC
CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Contact:

Colin Turner 0429 150 847 or bkvet2023@outlook.com

Shire of Bruce Rock 08 9061 1377 or caris.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au



Australia Day

**January
26, 2024**

**Free Community Breakfast
at the Rec Centre**

**Free Entry at the Aquatic
Centre All Day**

More details to come in the New Year

**For more information contact :
90611377 or email
caris.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au**



SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY SUNDOWNER

09 . 02 . 2024

Volunteer of the Year Awards
Annual Sporting Awards
Live Music
Kids Entertainment
Meals & Refreshments

Award nomination forms available from
Shire Website or email details below

Contact caris.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au
for more information



Council Meeting Outcomes

The last Councillor Information Session and Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2023 were held on Thursday 14th December 2023. There was a large range of topics addressed and resolved, followed by an end of year function to recognise retiring Councillors, Phillip Negri, Natalie Kilminster and Rebecca Waye. Below is a brief summary of some of the matters discussed and addressed at the meeting.

Annual Report

Council received and accepted the Annual Report for the 2022/2023 financial year, which included the annual financial statements and audit report. Council was pleased to receive a positive Independent Audit Report, which reflect the good governance and financial management of the organisation. The Annual Report is available on Council's website and will be presented at the Annual Electors Meeting set for Thursday 8th February 2024 at 5.00pm in the Bruce Rock Town Hall Supper Room.

Bus Service to Merredin

Council considered a request from the Bruce Rock Senior Citizens Committee for Council to provide a bus service from Bruce Rock to the Merredin Train Station, so that seniors can catch the train to Perth for medical appointments, and return. The survey results were presented to Council noting that only eight surveys were returned. The survey results showed that only three people caught the train for medical appointments and one left their car in Merredin while in Perth. It also showed there was little to no consistency evidenced for the usage, with no real alignment of appointments amongst community members. Should the service be provided, this would result in the bus being required to drive one or two people at a time to Merredin and then collect them at a later date, meaning it would be unviable to offer such a service. It would also be unreasonable to charge individuals the recovery cost for such a service. It was deemed a standard car and volunteers may be a more appropriate solution.

Council has acknowledged that there may be a need for support in this area and has asked the Senior Citizens Group to liaise with other operators, such as Home Care Support or the new Staying at Home program being operated by the CRC. In addition, Council will be undertaking a review of its Aged Friendly Community Plan, undertaking public consultation with the community and target groups.



Council Meeting Outcomes

Retail Trading Hours

Council considered a proposal to permanently extend weekday Retail Trading Hours in Bruce Rock, to commence at 7.00am rather than the prescribed Retail Trading Hours commencing at 8.00am for Non-Metropolitan Local Governments. There are many other regional Local Governments that have varied hours, including some of our neighbouring Shires. The earlier opening time will enable locals and visitors to be able to undertake their shopping earlier to meet the needs of their lifestyle and work hours, will assist in increasing economic benefits to the community and will allow farmers, tradies and other workers to access supplies on their way to work and not have to wait later in the morning. This will also benefit parents dropping their children at the bus stop in town at 7.30am. The earlier retail trading hours would not be compulsory for businesses but would enable retailers to open as early as 7.00am if they choose to do so. Before Council can make a final determination and approve this variation extensive community consultation will be undertaken early in 2024.

Bruce Rock Town Hall

Council inspected the completed refurbishment works in the Bruce Rock Town Hall, including the floor, which was sanded back and resealed. The Hall is now ready for use again, and will available for hire commencing in January 2024. Please contact the Shire Office for bookings.

Regional Meetings

Council received the minutes for various regional and community meetings, which Councillors and staff had attended over the past month. There were updates on regional collaboration from WEROC and CEACA, the Regional Road Group meeting, which Bruce Rock is now secretariat for, and Council had representatives at the WA Local Government Association Meeting in Kellerberrin. Locally, Council delegates attended the Retirement Units Committee, CRC Committee and Back to The Bush Reunion meetings.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

The graphic features the words 'MERRY' and 'CHRISTMAS' in a bold, teal, sans-serif font. The word 'MERRY' is stacked above 'CHRISTMAS'. The letters are contained within dark teal rectangular blocks. The graphic is decorated with several yellow starburst ornaments of varying sizes, scattered around the text. The background is a faded, light-colored image of a town street with buildings and people walking.

Holiday Opening Hours



	Shire Office	Shire Depot	Pool	Tip	Bin Days
Thur 21 Dec	8.30am-4.30pm	7am-4pm	10am - 6pm	CLOSED	N/A
Fri 22 Dec	8.30am-1.00pm	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	8am-4.30pm	BUSINESSES
Sat 23 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	8am-4.30pm	TOWNSITE RECYCLING
Sun 24 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	8am-4.30pm	N/A
XMAS DAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	N/A
BOXING DAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	CLOSED	N/A
Wed 27 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	CLOSED	TOWNSITES GENERAL
Thur 28 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	CLOSED	N/A
Fri 29 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	8am-4.30pm	BUSINESSES
Sat 30 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	8am-4.30pm	N/A
Sun 31 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	8am-4.30pm	N/A
New Years	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 6pm	CLOSED	N/A
Tues 2 Jan	8.30am-4.30pm	7am-4pm	10am - 6pm	CLOSED	TOWNSITES GENERAL
Wed 3 Jan	8.30am-4.30pm	7am-4pm	10am - 6pm	CLOSED	N/A

IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY DURING THE ADMIN OFFICE CLOSURE, PLEASE CONTACT:

IN CASE OF FIRE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CONSTRUCTION CREW SUPERVISOR
TOWN CREW SUPERVISOR

EMERGENCY SERVICES 000
DARREN MOLLENOYUX 0428 611 377
BROCK WILLIAMS 0499 599 468
VERN JETTA 0427 211 104

