

Shire of Bruce Rock

Newsletter

April 2023



Where friends become *family*

CEO Report

It has been great to see some good opening rains and seeding well underway across the Shire. This has also been great for our oval, gardens and continuing to fill dams to ensure a plentiful supply of water in our catchments.

Below is a brief snapshot of current points for public information, however if you want to know more or seek information on other Council related matters please contact the CEO, President or one of the Shire Councillors.

New Staff

With our Deputy CEO, Alan O'Toole informing the Shire in January that he will be retiring at the end of March 2023, a recruitment process commenced to find a replacement. As part of the process we also reviewed the position title to bring it into line with our Workforce Plan and Business Units, the position was renamed Manager of Governance and Community Services. Following an extensive recruitment process we are pleased to announce the appointment of Nerea Ugarte who commenced work at the Shire on the 24th April 2023. Nerea has an extensive background in governance, working in State Government for many years. We welcome Nerea to the Shire and Community.

ANZAC Day

It was great to see over 140 people attend this year's ANZAC Service held at the Bruce Rock War Memorial and Remembrance Park, following by a service in the Amphitheatre. It was a wonderful service and we received lots of compliments on how good the area looked. Well done to the local Veterans, Karen Arnold and the Shire staff who were involved in arranging the day. Special mention to the gardeners who did a great job in preparing the area for the day.

Caravan Park

We are pleased to announce the recent appointment of Gary (Tom) Sedgwick to the position of Caravan Park Caretaker. Tom started at the Caravan Park in mid April 2023 and he is looking forward to the role and welcoming tourists and visitors to Bruce Rock. Tom is a local with great knowledge of the area and will be a great asset in this role.

In addition to a new caretaker, the Shire has implemented an online booking system for the caravan park. This means that anyone can now jump online, via Council's website, and book accommodation at the Bruce Rock Caravan Park.

Hockey Surrounds

As many will have noticed there has been some works starting at the Bruce Rock Hockey Turf. The Bruce Rock Hockey Club has been working hard behind the scenes in consultation with Council for the development of the viewing area on the western side of the synthetic hockey turf. The hockey club have done a great job in fundraising for this project and are now commencing with stage one of their viewing area. This first stage will be a tiered limestone viewing area for spectators and will improve the aesthetics of the open area. We look forward to seeing the completed works in the coming weeks.

Darren Mollenoyux

CEO Report

Supermarket Update

It was extremely exciting to see the walls of the new supermarket going up this week, this is a major milestone in the project and has certainly got the town abuzz. The roof structure and steel framework has now commenced and the shell of the building will be completed in three weeks. The project is on track to meet our deadlines and work in liaison with the successful retailer.

It is also great to see the continued support of the community with the temporary supermarket continuing to be well supported. This was evidenced on Easter Thursday with the daily takings for that day exceeding our previous daily takings record by more than \$2,000.



Bruce Rock's Newest Aussie!

**Welyn Perez
Divinagracia**



Darren Mollenoyux

Update from the CDO

ANZAC Day

It was fantastic to see such a large turn out at our ANZAC Day service once again. We counted over 100 people at the cenotaph. ANZAC Day is a time to reflect on the sober reality of war, and to commemorate all those that have served over the years, and especially those who lost their lives at war. We are fortunate to have such a strong Veteran presence in our community, and we thank them for the work they did preparing for the service. Thank you also to Rev. Karen Arnold for leading the service at the Amphitheatre.



Main Street Playground

We are very excited to announce that the plans for a new playground in the main street are progressing! We have appointed Ecoscape to undertake the landscape architect services. These services include designing the playground and its surrounds, so once the drawings are completed we are able to go to tender to construct the playground. Our initial brief with the consultants has been informed by the various public consultation sessions we have undertaken in the past few years. Further public consultation will be undertaken when the drawings are in a draft stage. Ecoscape designed the Williams and Quairading playgrounds.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Alongside the CRC, we have been successful in receiving a grant for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, from the Department of Communities. We will be using the funds to hold an information day for our aged community members to raise awareness of mental, physical, and financial abuse, and resources to assist with prevention and protection.



Caris Negri

From the Works Manager

Construction Works Crew

The construction program reached completion on the 22nd of April. the crews will now start their grading maintenance program for the year, so please be aware of personal and machines on the roads over the coming months, and please obey the signs.

Maintenance & Patching Works Crew

The maintenance and patching crew have been out completing various works throughout the shire. If you see any major faults in the sealed areas, please report it the Administration Office so repairs can be arranged straight away.

Town Gardens and Recreation Centre Crew

Gardeners have been busy in the Bruce Rock townsite keeping all the parks, garden beds and public areas tidy. If anyone sees a break in any of the reticulation, please report it the Administration Office so repairs can be arranged straight away.

Please note that the reticulation will be turned off for winter (you may notice some browning or wilting but please be assured we will not let things die).

Town Crew

The Town Crew have continued their work completing the bridge on the Belka East road. Whilst the team awaits optimal conditions to complete the bridge works they will be contributing efforts to various maintenance jobs throughout the Shire.



From the Crews

As we are now approaching the wetter part of the season please be mindful of water on the road please do your best to drive to the conditions.

Wherever you go in the Region or State, we hope you have a safe journey.

From the Works Manager

With seeding underway I would like to encourage motorists to be mindful of large vehicles on the roads. Our staff will be undertaking maintenance works throughout the Shire to ensure conditions are maintained for motorists.

Please be safe over the next few months wherever you roam around this great state.



Dave Holland

Council Meeting Outcomes

Council held its recent Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 20th April 2023, where Council considered various matters. Below is a brief overview of some of the items and Council decisions from the meeting.

Heavy Vehicle Access RAV Ratings

The Works and Services Committee of Council have been reviewing many RAV Route requests from Main Roads WA for increased RAV ratings on various roads throughout the Shire. The Manager of Works and Council are continuing to ensure that as many of these requests are supported where possible whilst ensuring we maintain a safe and viable freight network for now and well into the future.

Australia Day Community Event

Following low numbers at the past few Australia Day events, a survey was commissioned to seek public feedback on Council's annual Australia Day event. The survey was advertised on Facebook, our website, and the Rock Review. Hard copies of the survey were available at the Administration Office, CRC, and Medical Centre. The survey was open for 2.5 weeks, however there was limited engagement with only 15 responses received. The respondents form 1.5% of our population, therefore it was difficult to draw any significant conclusions with such a small amount of data. The results they were received indicated that there was still a desire for an event, however not in the middle of the day and no definitive desire for it to be held at the Aquatic Centre.

Council has agreed to continue with the event, however the 2023 Australia Day event will be a breakfast at the Bruce Rock Recreation Centre and there will still be free access to the Aquatic Centre for the day. Further details on the event will be advertised closer to the date.

Annual Community Grants Program

Sporting and Community Groups were invited to make submissions for small one off grants to assist them in delivering projects for the betterment of their group, volunteers or the community. Council received five applications which were reviewed and assessed against the criteria for consideration in the 2023/2024 budget. Council ranked the projects and four of these were approved for inclusion in the budget deliberation process. The outcomes of these grants and the successful projects will be announced in the near future.

Planning and Development

Council received several planning and development applications during the month. All applications were assessed and approved in accordance with planning legislation. Council also received offers to purchase land in both Bruce Rock and Shackleton. Council is pleased to see development and planning continuing within the Shire.

Citizenship Ceremony

Following the Council meeting the Shire President conducted a Citizenship Ceremony for Welyn Perez. Council welcomes our latest Australian Citizenship and hope that Welyn enjoys living in Bruce Rock. This was witnessed by family, friends, Councillors and staff.



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