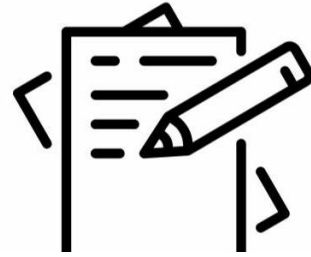


# CEO UPDATE



**October 2026**

It is great to be back in Bruce Rock after enjoying a good break in Europe, and I am genuinely pleased to be back at work and looking forward to what promises to be a busy few months ahead. I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank our Shire team for the excellent job they did while I was away. It is always reassuring to know that we have a capable and committed team who continue to keep things moving and deliver for our community.

## **Bushfire Preparedness and Emergency Management**

As we head towards another harvest and bushfire season, there has been plenty happening in the emergency management space. I am delighted to confirm that the Shire has now been formally notified that Bruce Rock will become a bushfire water-bombing aircraft resupply location from this season. This is a fantastic outcome for Bruce Rock and follows considerable work to ensure we have the infrastructure and capability required to provide this important service. Volunteers will undertake specific training to enable them to safely resupply water-bombing aircraft when they land during firefighting operations. Having this capability based in Bruce Rock will strengthen our ability to support bushfire responses not only within our own Shire, but across the surrounding region. It is a significant addition to our local emergency management capability and something we have been working proactively towards for some time.

We also recently held our pre-season bushfire volunteer training, facilitated by area officers from DFES. More than 60 people attended, followed by a sundowner, which was a tremendous turnout. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended. The commitment of our volunteer bushfire personnel is something we should never take for granted. Their willingness to give their time, undertake training and be ready to respond when needed is an enormous contribution to our community. With harvest approaching and the warmer months ahead, this level of preparation and commitment is extremely encouraging.

I am also very pleased to welcome Alex Wilson, who has commenced with the Shire as our new Community Emergency Services Manager. Alex is based at the Recreation Centre and will support emergency management across the Shires of Bruce Rock, Narembeen, and Merredin. I am sure the community will become increasingly familiar with Alex as he settles into the position and works with our brigades, volunteers, and emergency management partners. Meanwhile, we continue to await formal Ministerial approval for the establishment of our proposed Bruce Rock North Bush Fire Brigade. Once that approval is received, we will be able to progress the formal establishment of the brigade and provide further information to the community.

## **Back to the Bush – 25th Anniversary**

We are now only a few weeks away from what a particularly special Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion will be, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of this important Bruce Rock event. Back to the Bush provides us with an opportunity to remember, recognise and honour our veterans, particularly our Vietnam veterans, together with other veterans and our first responders. This year's anniversary makes the event especially poignant, and once again we are looking forward to welcoming people from far and wide to Bruce Rock.

# CEO UPDATE



There is a fantastic program of events and gatherings planned throughout the week, culminating in what promises to be a terrific Saturday afternoon and evening at the amphitheatre. The music festival will be a major feature, and I strongly encourage community members and visitors to purchase their tickets, (only \$5), and come along to support the event. A considerable amount of work is being undertaken behind the scenes by our community team and many others to make the week a success. I thank everyone involved and look forward to seeing Bruce Rock come alive as we welcome our veterans, first responders, families, and visitors for this milestone anniversary.

## **Bruce Rock Café**

Earlier this year we advised the community that the current operators of the Bruce Rock café would be moving on. Following a competitive tender process which attracted a number of applications, Council has now determined to award the tender to Regal Ventures (Reet and Kulwant from the Supermarket). The Shire looks forward to working with and supporting the new operators as they establish themselves and continue this important service for our community and visitors. Further information regarding the transition and commencement arrangements will be provided to the community as these details are finalised. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kim and Meredith for their contribution and wish them every success in their future ventures.

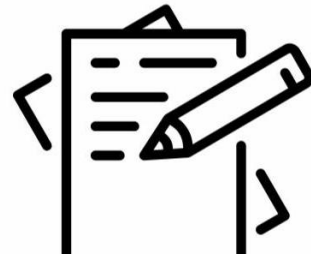
## **Aquatic Centre – Ready for Another Great Season**

It is also great to see the Bruce Rock Aquatic Centre opening for another season, and we look forward to once again seeing the facility well supported by our community. Further improvement works are planned, including the replacement of Softfall within the Aquatic Centre play area, along with maintenance works to the waterslide. These works will help ensure that these popular facilities remain safe, functional, and enjoyable for everyone who uses them. The Aquatic Centre is a fantastic community asset, particularly throughout our warmer months, and following the strong attendance we have experienced previously, we are hoping for another successful season and perhaps even greater attendance throughout 2026–27. I encourage everyone to make the most of the facility over the coming months.

## **Shackleton Bank Restoration**

Another exciting project about to get underway is the repair and refurbishment of the historic Shackleton Bank. A contractor is about to be appointed to undertake restoration works to this important local attraction. The Shackleton Bank is a unique part of our district's history and a great attraction for visitors travelling through Bruce Rock and the wider Wheatbelt. Maintaining attractions such as this is important not only in preserving our local heritage, but also in continuing to strengthen the visitor experience throughout our districts. We are excited to see restoration work progressing on this valuable community and tourism asset and look forward to seeing the completed result.

# CEO UPDATE



## **Main Street Revitalisation and Town Centre Precinct**

Our strategic projects continue to progress, particularly our Main Street Revitalisation and proposed community precinct. The Shire is currently awaiting notification from Lotterywest regarding our funding application for the town centre precinct. This remains an important component of our broader Main Street Revitalisation strategy, and we look forward to providing the community with further information once the outcome of the application is known.

## **Land, Housing and Future Development**

We are also continuing to actively pursue opportunities to create additional land for both residential and industrial development. The Shire is currently progressing the process of acquiring land from the State Government which, in time, will provide opportunities for additional industrial development within Bruce Rock. At the same time, we continue to work closely with DevelopmentWA regarding Stage 2 of the Curlew Drive residential subdivision. Importantly, our recent Expression of Interest process attracted 25 responses from people interested in potentially taking up residential lots should Stage 2 proceed. This was an excellent response and provides strong evidence of demand for additional residential land in Bruce Rock. The Shire is actively progressing this project and will continue working with DevelopmentWA and other relevant agencies to determine the best pathway for delivering the next stage of residential development.

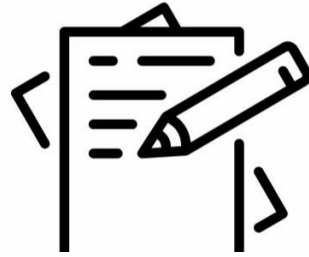
## **Planning to Build a Shed or Other Structure?**

A timely reminder to residents who may be considering building a shed or adding another structure to their property, please contact the Shire before commencing any work. In many circumstances, a building permit will be required, and there may also be other requirements that need to be considered depending upon the type, size, and location of the proposed structure. The best approach is to contact the Shire in the first instance and discuss what you are proposing with our staff. We can then provide guidance on whether approvals are required and explain the process you need to follow. A quick conversation with the Shire before you start can help avoid unnecessary complications later. We are always happy to assist residents in understanding the requirements and working through the appropriate approval process.

## **See Something That Needs Attention? Snap Send Solve**

Finally, a reminder that everyone in our community can play a part in helping us keep Bruce Rock looking its best. As previously advertised, the Shire has refreshed its use of the Snap Send Solve app, providing residents with a quick and convenient way of reporting issues that may need our attention. If you notice a large pothole, an issue in one of our parks or public spaces, damaged infrastructure, or something else around the Shire that you believe requires attention, please let us know. Simply download the Snap Send Solve app, take a photo, and send the report through. This provides our team with useful information about the issue and its location so that it can be assessed and, where appropriate, actioned. Our staff cannot be everywhere at once, so the eyes and ears of our community are extremely valuable. By reporting issues when you see them, you can work with us to address problems sooner and help us keep our Shire as pristine, safe, and welcoming as possible.

# CEO UPDATE



## Looking Ahead

There is certainly plenty happening across Bruce Rock as we head towards the end of another year. From strengthening our bushfire and emergency management capability and preparing for the 25th anniversary of Back to the Bush, through to our Aquatic Centre season, restoration of the Shackleton Bank, Main Street Revitalisation, residential subdivision and future industrial development, there continues to be a strong focus on both delivering for today and planning for Bruce Rock's future. After some time away, it is particularly pleasing to come back and see the momentum continuing across the organisation and community.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the coming weeks – particularly during Back to the Bush – and to continuing the work ahead.

Best wishes

Mark