

Shire of Bruce Rock
Newsletter
July 2023



*Where friends become **family***

CEO Report

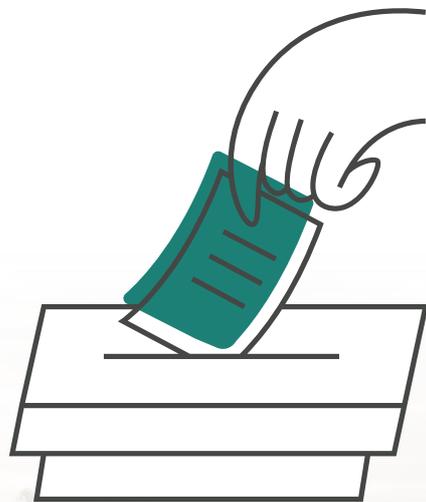
Staff have been very busy over the past month with the completion of works for the 2022-23 financial year, while preparing the 2023-24 budget for Council's consideration at the July 2023 Ordinary Meeting.

Below is a brief snapshot of recent activities or updates. 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.

Regional Meetings

Over the past month, the CEO, President, and Deputy President and staff have been busy attending regional meetings, webinars and Teams meetings. Some of the meetings attended are: WA Local Government Great Eastern Zone Meeting in Kellerberrin, Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC) in Tammin, Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA), Department of Local Government webinars on the Local Government Act Reforms, and attended the Aboriginal Cultural Land Act Information Session in Merredin.

Attending these meetings is crucial in ensuring that Council and staff are up to date with the latest information, and can work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for our community.



2023 Council Elections

The 2023 Local Government Elections will be held on the 21st October 2023. As previously publicised, the Shire of Bruce Rock will be reducing its Councillor numbers from 9 to 7 at this election. There will be 4 vacancies open in October. The other significant change will be the State Government's introduction of Optional Preferential Voting in Local Government Elections.

Further information regarding Optional Preferential Voting, the Nomination Process, and the Postal Voting Process will start being advertised in the coming month. This will include opportunities to attend online or in person candidate information sessions.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor and want to find out more, please contact the CEO at the Shire Office.

Darren Mollenoyux

CEO Report

Future Housing

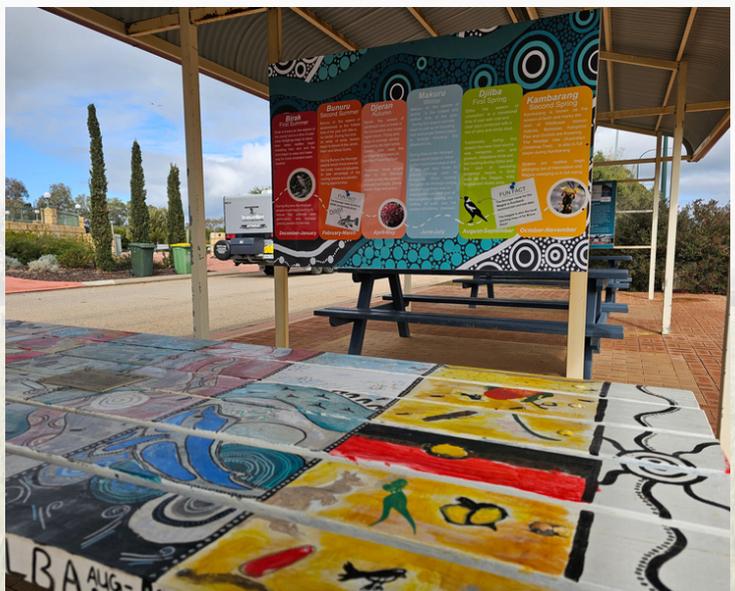
Staff have been undertaking reviews of current and future housing requirements for Bruce Rock. Council is looking at seeking grant funding for different options and models going forward, and will be working with different Local Government partners and bodies. Part of this analysis will include consultation with the community in the near future.

Main Street Electronic Notice Board

As many will have noticed our main street electronic notice board is currently not working. The notice board was damaged by an electrical surge. We are awaiting the suppliers to come and rectify the issue, including works on the receiver.

Unveiling of Six Season Signage

On 30 June 2023, the Shire organised a community event to celebrate NAIDOC week and to unveil the new six seasons sign in the main street, which depicts the six Noongar seasons. This sign compliments the bench that was previously painted by the school children based around the six seasons. The event was well attended by Councillors, staff and representatives from the Police, Hospital, the CRC and school.



Supermarket Update

Construction of the new Bruce Rock Supermarket is progressing well, and is on target for completion within the Council's estimated timeframe of October 2023.

As many will have seen, Devlyn Construction have continued to progress the construction of the new supermarket with great management and coordination of contractors, materials and suppliers. The Shire's Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Services Manager and Office of Regional Architecture representatives have met fortnightly with key Devlyn staff to receive project updates and work collaboratively to ensure there is a diligent approach and best outcomes for everyone involved.

The new supermarket is taking shape and most external works have now been completed, including the verandah and façade, with painting to commence in coming weeks. This will be complimented with bench seating and streetscaping prior to opening.

The fit out of the supermarket is being coordinated in conjunction with the build, with AJ Baker & Sons already commencing the install of cool rooms, and preparing the pre-works for the fridge and freezer display units. The final fit out of furniture, shelving and display units will be supplied and installed by Lane Industries when all other construction works are completed.

Despite concerns raised with the initial advice that power would not be provided to the site until February 2024, through lobbying and working closely with the Minister for Energy's Office and Western Power, we have been able to secure a power connection date for September 2023. This is a significant outcome, which will enable the supermarket to be operational and serving the community well before the end of 2023.

Applications for Expressions of Interest for the retailer / operator of the new supermarket closed on the 19th July 2023. Assessment of the submissions and interviews will occur within the next fortnight. This will then be presented to Council for consideration and decision. If a successful retailer is identified from this process and negotiations reached, a public announcement will be made.



Darren Mollenoyux

Update from the CDO

Blast from the Past-Kwolyin Football Club Blazer

The Museum have recently been donated a rare blazer from the Kwolyin Football Club from the 1960s era. The blazer was donated by Tim Flahagan, who has fond memories of his time with the club. The blazer will be displayed at the Bruce Rock museum. The museum is always on the look out for volunteers to help keep it open for visitors. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jan Kilminster or Kathy Schilling, or pop into the museum when it is open.

Community Grants

As a part of the Annual Budget adopted at the July Council Meeting, the 2023-2024 Community Grants Program recipients were finalised. The Community Grants Program aims to assist local not for profit community programs with small infrastructure, improvement, or event projects. Projects must aim to further the development of art and culture, disability and ageing, youth, education and training, environment, event planning, history and heritage, sport and recreation, tourism, or volunteer upskilling.

This year's successful projects are:

- Bruce Rock Pony Club - Show Jumping Arena Fencing
- Regional Early Education and Development Bruce Rock - Landscaping including an 'Edible Garden'
- Shackleton Progress Association - Playground improvements
- Wheatbelt Youth Council - Bruce Rock Respect 'Build Your Brand' project.

We look forward to seeing these worthy projects come to fruition over the next 12 months. If you have a project you are interested in seeking funding for in future rounds, please contact Caris Negri, Community Development Officer, to discuss further.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Council were successful in receiving funding from the Department of Communities for an event on the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. We partnered with the Community Resource Centre, who did a fantastic job hosting an 'Elder Fun Day'. The morning drew a small crowd who enjoyed morning tea, games, and information from our local Police surrounding Elder Abuse. Thank you very much to Sergeant Vaughan Webb for his time addressing this important topic, and to the CRC for hosting the event and organising the goodie bags handed out to all attendees. If anyone has any concerns about Elder Abuse, they are encouraged to contact the Police, or the Council on the Ageing (Western Australia) at cotawa.org.au or on 08 9472 0104.



Main Street Revitalisation Strategy

Key Outcomes Update

July 2023



STRATEGY ONE

JOHNSON ST AND DUNSTALL ST INTERSECTION

Council is continuing to work with Main Roads WA to redesign the intersection to improve traffic flow and safety, traffic movement and access to the fuel facility. Whilst this is a long-term project, some progress has been made in safety audits and other planning requirements. Staff will continue to meet with Main Roads WA to work towards the recommended outcomes.



STRATEGY TWO

RAILWAY LINE AND RESERVE PROJECT

This strategy addresses the development of walking trails and incorporating new natural spaces within the reserve space and along the railway line, from north to south. Paths will also link both sides of town crossing the railway reserve. This strategy will be addressed in further stages of the Main Street Revitalisation, after the completion of the Adventure Playground



STRATEGY THREE

PLAYGROUNDS

As per the concept plans, an Activity Centre will be established near the Amphitheatre which will include an Adventure Playground, pump track, and tourist information. A playground and landscape design architect has been engaged for the playground project, from who initial draft designs are expected to be received by the end of August. Council will undertake public consultation on these drafts before final concept plans are developed.



STRATEGY FOUR

PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION TO LOCAL CENTRE

As per the concept plan, 'pinch points' will be created to bring both sides of Johnson Street closer together without narrowing the size of the actual traffic lanes. The parklets are now a permanent fixture of the Main Street. We continue to work with Main Roads WA towards designing and implementing permanent pinch points on the eastern side of the Main Street.



STRATEGY FIVE

AMPHITHEATRE

The upgrades to the Amphitheatre were completed in the latter months of 2021. Remembrance Park was also completed in 2021, and has received a large amount of positive feedback from locals and visiting tourists. An activation plan will be completed by the end of this year, with actionable items to be included in the 2024-2025 budget.



STRATEGY SIX MACHINERY MUSEUM

This strategy outlines plans to redesign and expand the Machinery Museum layout and surrounds to improve access, and visual enhancement to showcase the historical items, whilst creating interest and engagement. These plans will be addressed in further stages of the Main Street Revitalisation.



STRATEGY SEVEN MAIN STREET FACADES AND AMENITIES

Council continues to encourage businesses to maintain and improve their facades to showcase their heritage design. Council has ensured the design of the new supermarket is modern, whilst still complementing the Main Street facades and amenities. The new supermarket is expected to be completed by October 2023.



STRATEGY EIGHT CULTURAL CENTRE AND SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Council continues to work on the outcomes of the study into the Cultural Centre, and has established an Economic Development Committee that will assess the need and viability of the Cultural Centre building, along with other economic development initiatives. Council continues to work with the Wheatbelt Sports Hall of Fame committee to see this project come to fruition.



STRATEGY NINE SWAN STREET AND JOHNSON STREET

This strategy aims to create innovative way signage to encourage visitors to stop on Johnson St, before they turn right to go to Narembeen, as well as including the Noonajin and Johnson St intersection in way signage and storytelling. Planning and some implementation of this strategy will commence during this financial year.



STRATEGY TEN MOSAICS

Enhancements to the mosaic experience will be implemented this financial year, including new signage and an upgraded guide to the mosaics that will be accessible via a QR code. Future improvements may include landscaping and lighting.



STRATEGY ELEVEN SIGNAGE

As detailed in Strategy Nine, wayfinding signage at town entry points is the priority for signage projects this financial year. A review of all signage in the Shire will be undertaken, with recommendations for future financial years.



STRATEGY TWELVE MAIN STREET PUBLIC ART AND STORYLINES

Swan St, Dunstall St and Johnson St to become a "Story Street" that focuses on Bruce Rock families and local identities, historical and current (reflecting the Shire of Bruce Rock's theme "Where Friends Become Family"). This strategy will be addressed in further stages of the Main Street Revitalisation.

Council Meeting Outcomes

Council had a full day of meetings and workshops on Thursday 21st July 2023. The day started early with a final review and presentation of the draft budget for 2023-24. This was following by Councillors Information Session. After lunch, Councillors received a site tour of the new supermarket to inspect the progress, this was then followed by the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting. The day finished with the Ordinary Meeting of Council, including the formal adoption of the budget.

Below is a brief overview of some of the Council decisions from the meeting.

2023-24 Budget Adopted

As part of the July 2023 Ordinary Meeting, Council considered and adopted the annual budget for the 2023-24 financial year. This budget showcases our vision for the growth and development of our Shire and the community, while demonstrating our ability to underpin this with robust financial management. The budget was prepared in line with the following principles:

- Financial sustainability.
- Alignment with the Shire's integrated resources and planning and long-term financial plan.
- Meeting financial compliances.
- Future growth of the Shire as a whole, with a focus on infrastructure and community.

The budget highlights are provided in this newsletter.

Operational Risk Register

Council considered and endorsed the Shire's Operational Risk Register, which assesses the risks faced by the Shire under 15 key categories and identifies strategies to engage such risks.

Building and Planning Approvals

Council received and considered three building and planning applications this month and, following assessment and reports by the relevant staff, Council reviewed and approved each of the applications.

Roadworks

Council received an update from the Manager of Works and Services on the progress of the winter maintenance grading program, as well as the roadside weed control activities that have been undertaken and planned. Discussions were also held regarding the ongoing concerns and lobbying undertaken for the improvement of the Dunstal St and Johnson St intersection. Whilst this road is owned by Main Roads WA, Council continues to push for improvements to the intersection, and will continue to meet with Main Roads WA to raise our concerns.

New Supermarket

Council addressed various points regarding the new supermarket, including; construction update, confirmation of power supply within timelines, options for a mural for the southern external wall, official opening, and the Expressions of Interest received for the retailer and lease. A separate community update has been provided in this newsletter regarding some of these key points.

23/24 Budget Highlights



Council adopted the annual budget on 20th July 2023 council meeting.

The 2023/2024 Annual Budget showcases our vision for the growth and development of our Shire and the community, while demonstrating our ability to underpin this with robust financial management. This budget holds the following financial principles::

- Financial Sustainability
- Alignment with Shire's integrated resources and planning (e.g: the strategic resource and community plan, Long term financial plan, corporate business plan)
- Meeting financial compliances
- Future growth of the Shire as a whole with a focus on infrastructure and community

The Annual Budget plays the most important role in operationalising the strategic financial management approach referenced in the Corporate Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan. The Long Term Financial Plan exerts persuasive influence on the content of the Shire's Annual Budget.

Being comparatively a smaller Shire/Council, we are also reliant on Grants income from both the State and Federal Government. The 2023/24 Budget allocates the financial resources necessary for Shire of Bruce Rock to deliver on our community's aspirations. It guides our approach to delivering infrastructure and services to the community in a responsible and affordable way. A budget of \$9.8Mn has been allocated to the Capital Projects for the Shire. The budget ensures that we have in place the necessary funding arrangements to support delivery of these agreed services and programs, proposed capital replacement programs and new capital projects for the upcoming year.

Capital Budget Highlights

Major Infrastructure Upgrades (Roads, Bridges, Footpaths, Drains, Dams)	\$2,884,392
Airport Upgrade	\$385,000
Plant Replacement Program	\$811,100
Playground Project	\$1,518,000
Solar Heat Mat for Aquatic Facilities	\$120,000
Housing amenities upgrade	\$133,050.95
Recreation Facilities Upgrade	\$125,098
Others	\$62,803
Carry Forward Projects from Previous Year (Supermarket)	\$3,562,002
Total	\$9,601,444

While the Retail precinct/Supermarket construction continues to be a major carry forward Capital project; the 2023-24 budget is a financially responsible plan that will re-energise our road infrastructure and develop a new playground; deliver on the evolving needs of our community and ensure we are financially sustainable well into the future. The Council and the staff look forward to another financial year in advocating and providing continued leadership to the community.

Major Expense Areas



Cemetery
\$38,085

Community Development
\$135,740

SUPERMARKET
Bruce Rock Supermarket
\$4,629,366

Recreation Facilities
\$714,760

LIBRARY
Library
\$41,930

Health Services
\$325,684

Aged Housing
\$52,220

Community Housing
\$146,663

Aquatic Centre
\$310,985

Road Construction & Maintenance
\$7,783,801

Parks & Gardens
\$1,965,152

Bushfire Brigade & Fire Prevention
\$138,250

Admin, Governance and Elected Members
\$1,672,915

Sanitation
\$262,850

Animal Control
\$21,916

Caravan Park & Camping Grounds
\$274,986

Senior Citizens
\$12,530