

Shire of Bruce Rock

Newsletter

June 2023



*Where friends become **family***

CEO Report

it has been a busy time in the Shire office, with budget preparations well underway and nearing completion for the new financial year, while the works crew have been extremely busy making the most of recent rains to continue with our gravel maintenance grading program.

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.

Tourist Feedback

Council has been receiving a large amount of positive feedback from tourists and travelers to the Shire, and it has been great seeing large volumes of caravanners staying at the caravan park and visiting the town and surrounding attractions. Over the long weekend, we saw our Caravan Park fully booked, as well as Kwolyin Campsite packed with campers from all over the State. As well as the positive feedback provided by comment cards, we have been included in two recent YouTube videos, with one highlighting and complimenting the Bruce Rock Caravan Park. The other was a half hour episode on Kwolyin Campsite and Kokerbin Rock.

Supermarket Update

It is very exciting to see the progress being made on the construction of the new supermarket, with the roof, internal walls, external cladding, aircon ducting and windows installed. Progress has been made with Western Power and their design work has now commenced. Thank you to everyone for your patience with the path and side road being hindered during construction. Your cooperation and patience during this time is much appreciated.

Work on the attraction of a retailer is continuing, with Council's retail consultant receiving interest and continuing to attract the best retailer for the new supermarket and Bruce Rock.



CEO Report

Emergency Management Training

During the month, Emergency Management Training was undertaken by Councillors, Senior Staff, Local Emergency Management Committee Members, and representatives from Police, St John Ambulance, VES, School and the Medical Centre. The one day course covered contemporary emergency management concepts and how these apply at a local level. The training explored in detail the principles of preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. This training will assist the Local Emergency Management Committee and our community in ensuring that we are best placed in our management of emergencies that may occur in the future.



Visit by the Wheatbelt Development Commission

The Acting CEO and three Board members from the Wheatbelt Development Commission visited Bruce Rock on the 8th June 2023 and met with Councillors, the CEO and Senior Managers. We were able to provide the Commission with an overview of recent projects and priorities of the Shire, discuss the progress of the supermarket, and highlight current matters, such as the delays in the provision of power supplies in regional areas, the lack of availability of medium and long term accommodation and the implications of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act on Local Government. We then took the members of the Commission on a tour of the town, which they were very impressed with. The Wheatbelt Development Commission provides a key conduit to State Government and is focused on developing our region.

Darren Mollenoyux

From the Works Manager

Maintenance and Patching Works Crew

The maintenance and patching crews have now combined for the maintenance season. Please, beware of large vehicles on various roads throughout the Shire and, if you see any potential hazards, please call the Administration Office and we will get to it as soon as we can.

Town Gardens and Recreation Centre Crew

Our Gardeners have been busy around town keeping all the parks, garden beds and public areas tidy.

If you notice a break in any of the reticulation, please let the Administration Office know, so arrangements for repair can be made. You may notice a change in colour or hue in our gardens over the winter period. Please note that this is due to reticulation being switched off. Rest assured we will not let the grassed areas or gardens perish!

From the Works Manager

I would like to thank my crews for their efforts over the past financial year. They have done an outstanding job with the small amount of personnel we have had. I hope the next financial year is just as rewarding.

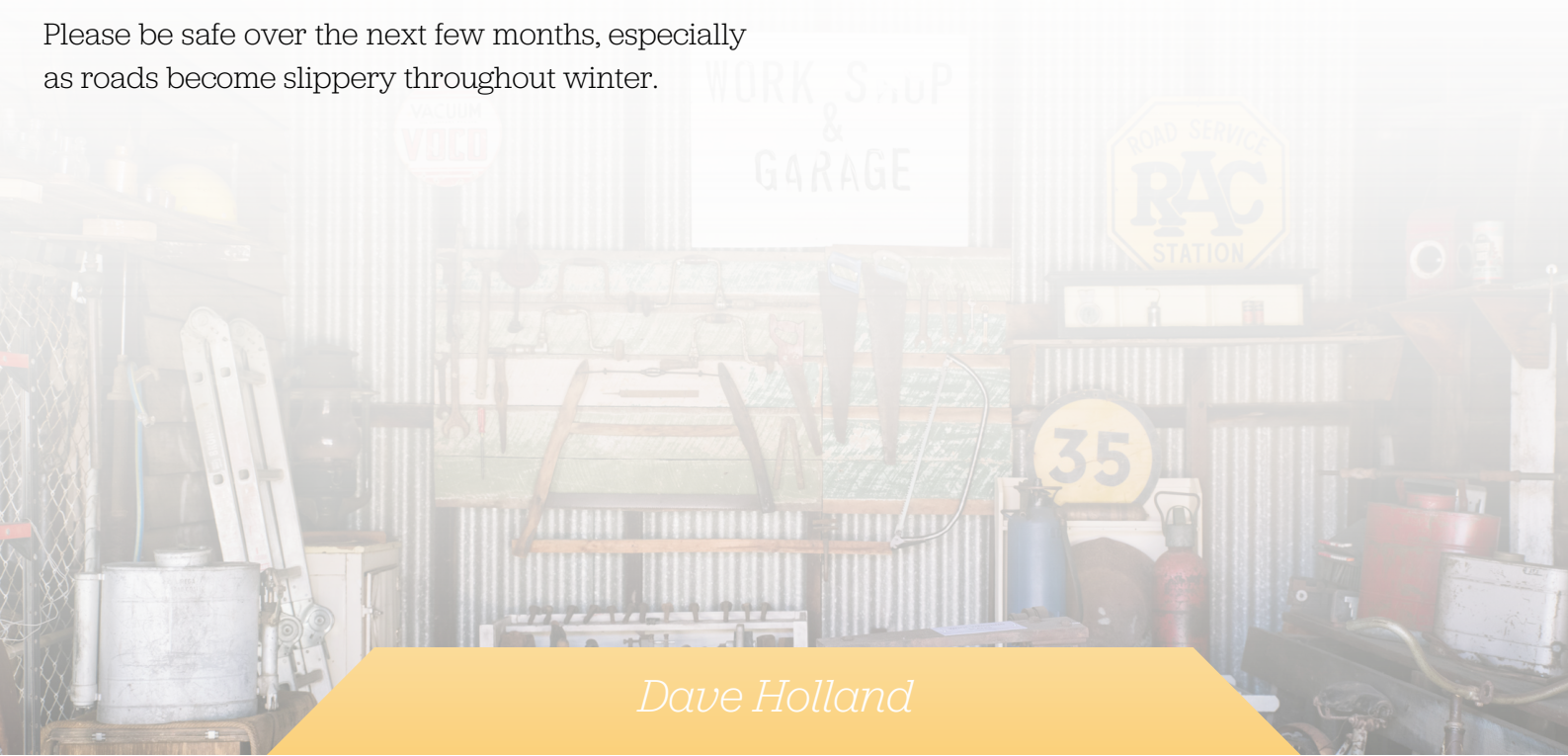
Please be safe over the next few months, especially as roads become slippery throughout winter.

New Fleet Additions

As part of the 2022/23 budget submissions we have purchased several items to improve our works service. We have now received a patching tank for our sealed road patching program, which will improve efficiency as it holds more emulsion. We also purchased a new generator, which was funded through a grant. The generator will be placed outside the Administration Office and will, in the event of a major power outage or in an emergency, power both the Administration Office and the Town Hall.



NEW



Dave Holland

Council Meeting Outcomes

Council held its recent Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 15th June 2023, where Council considered various matters. Below is a brief overview of some of the items considered and Council decisions from the meeting.

Draft Local Planning Policy - Heritage Places

In late 2022, Council adopted the Local Heritage Survey and Heritage List in line with the Heritage Act 2018, which required Local Governments to replace their Municipal Inventories with a Local Heritage Survey, and to develop a Heritage List.

Local Governments are required to establish a Heritage List under the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015. When the Heritage List is adopted, Local Governments are required to give due regard to the heritage significance of the listed place when determining development applications, but the heritage significance does not limit or restrict how a Local Government is to determine an application. The Local Planning Policy - Heritage Places outlines the issues Council must consider when a planning application is made for a property that is included on the Heritage List.

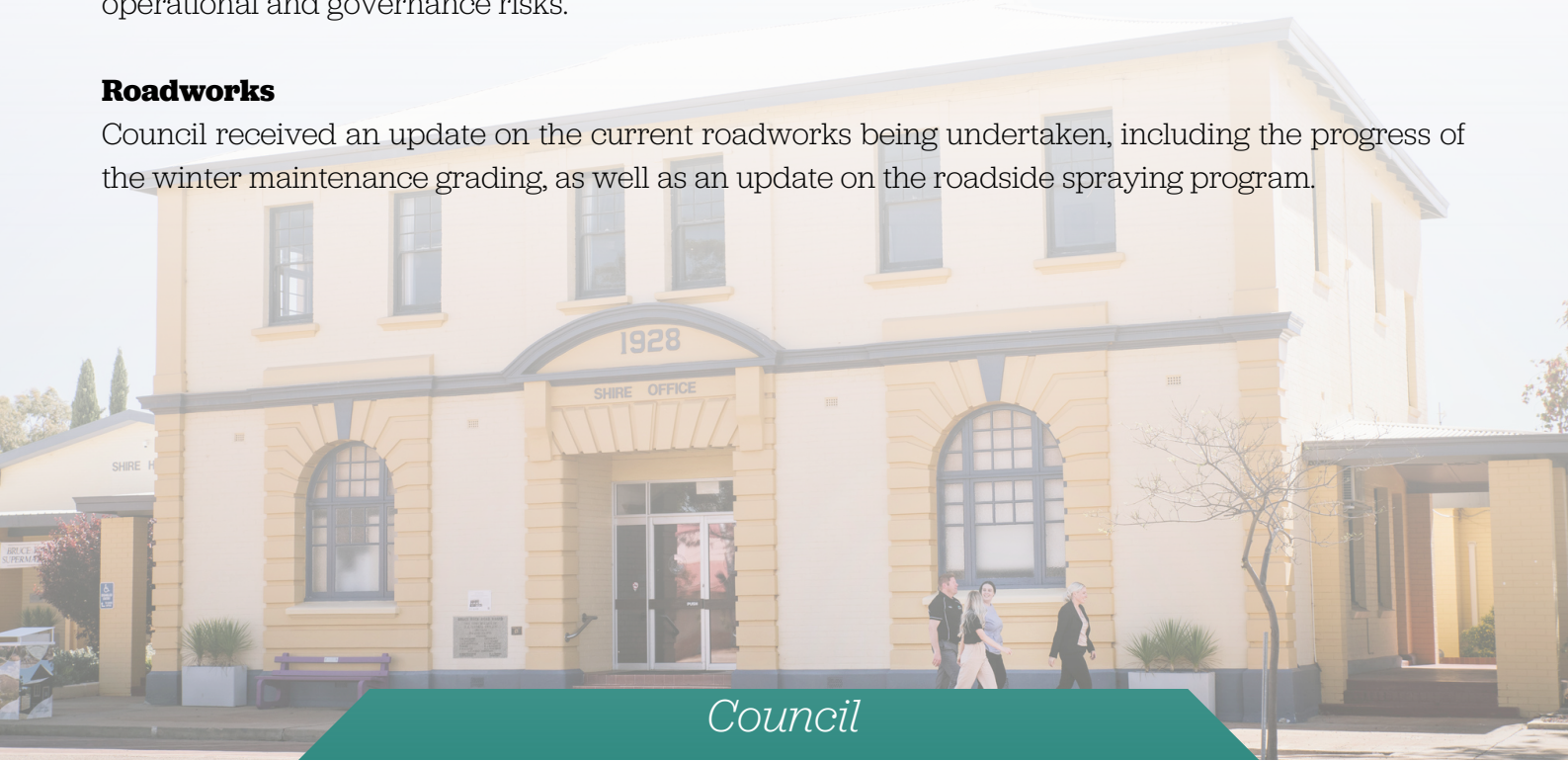
The Draft Local Planning Policy - Heritage Places, is currently open for public comment until the 10th July 2023. Please see Council's Public Notices for further details.

Risk Management Review

As part of our ongoing review of Council policies, it was identified that there was a requirement to enhance our Risk Management Policy to ensure there is an emphasis on the early identification and management of potential risks. The contribution of risk management to the Shire's achievement of its objectives "efficiently, effectively and within good corporate governance principles" has also been recognised in the policy. In addition to the policy update, Council adopted a revised Risk Management Framework, which will enhance our risk management practices and reduce operational and governance risks.

Roadworks

Council received an update on the current roadworks being undertaken, including the progress of the winter maintenance grading, as well as an update on the roadside spraying program.



Council Meeting Outcomes

Budget Planning

Council received an update from the Manager of Finance on the preparation of the annual budget for 2023/24. Council also reviewed the Draft Capital Works Program, Fees and Charges and Rating schedule. These will form part of the budget process, with budget adoption scheduled for late July 2023.

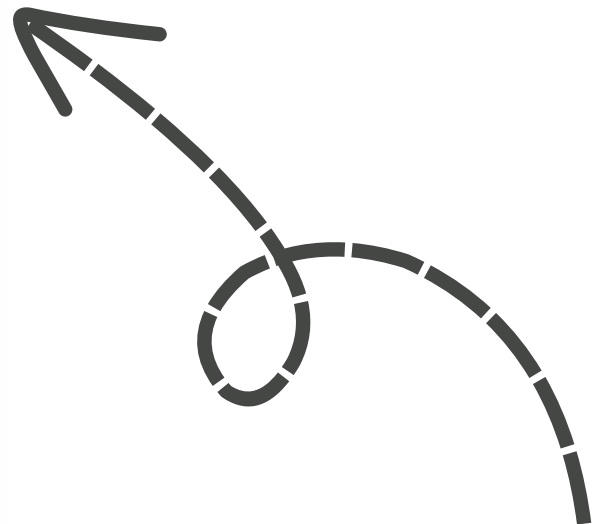
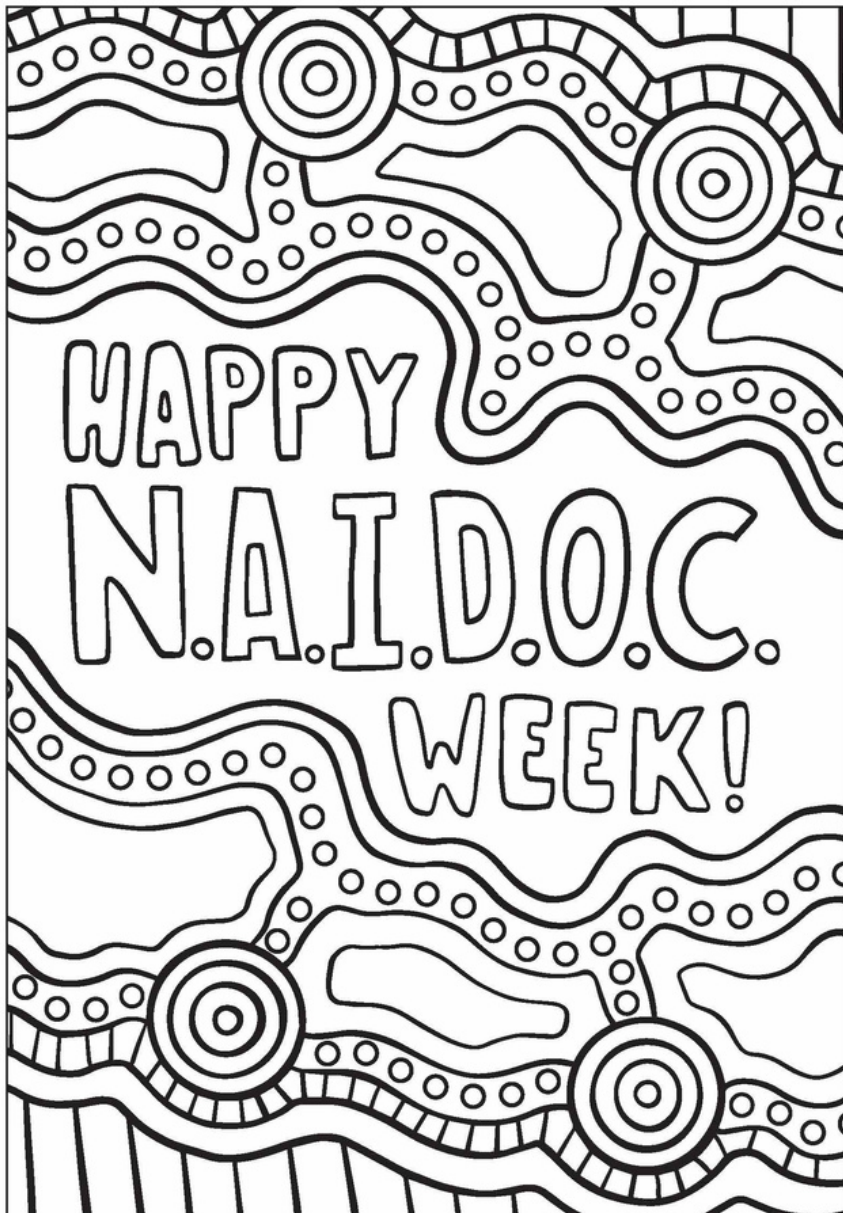
CEACA

The CEO and President attended the CEACA meeting on the 29th May 2023, and provided Council with an update at the June Council Meeting. This included the prospect of CEACA seeking grant funding for additional housing in cooperation with member Councils, the inclusion of a new member Shire, and a presentation on a proposed “Staying in Place” model of support services for home care.



For the little ones

The Admin Staff at the Shire of Bruce Rock would like to thank all the AMAZING artists that submitted their drawings of our new supermarket. Below are a few of the office favourites. It was TOUGH to pick just a few as they were all so well done!



Colour me in!

