

Shire of Bruce Rock

Newsletter

May 2023



*Where friends become **family***

CEO Report

It has been great to see some good opening rains and seeding well underway across the Shire. The rain has also been very welcome for our oval and gardens, and continues to fill dams ensuring a plentiful supply of water in our catchments.

Below is a brief snapshot of current points for public information. 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.

Supermarket Update

The construction of the new supermarket continues to progress on time. With the walls, steel frameworks and flooring now completed, the roof will be installed on the week commencing the 29th May 2023. Over the coming weeks there will be some days and periods of time where parts of the street and/or footpath will be closed to ensure public safety during construction. Please, abide by the signage and barriers, and remain away from the site. Your cooperation and patience during this time is much appreciated.

Council is currently lobbying the Minister for Energy to assist in progressing the permanent and adequate supply of power to this site. Despite this process commencing in September 2022, there is a significant backlog on design works at Western Power, which may cause delays in connection. Please, be assured that Council and contractors involved in this project are working hard to ensure the power is connected for the opening of the supermarket.

The attraction of a retailer is well underway with Council's retail consultant commencing advertising and ensuring that this exciting opportunity is distributed far and wide to attract the best retailer for the new supermarket. Further information is included in this newsletter.



Darren Mollenoyux

CEO Report

Council Chats

Last year, Council undertook a Customer Satisfaction Survey. One of the areas that respondents raised was wanting more opportunities to meet with Council. Council has listened to this request and is now holding “Chat with Council” sessions. This will form part of Council’s community engagement and provide a casual setting for community members to catch up with Councillors in various locations throughout the year. These sessions will provide an opportunity to meet with Council, the CEO and other staff in an informal setting to have a general chat, ask questions or hear about the Shire’s latest projects and activities.

The first “Chat with Council” was held last Thursday near the new supermarket site, where around 25 people attended and had the opportunity to receive a first hand update on the building progress, as well as ask questions about other Council matters.



Council Elections

In line with the Local Government Reform Bill, this year will see a significant change in our Council numbers and how the public vote. At the Local Government Elections on the 21st October 2023, our number of elected members will reduce from 9 to 7. There will be 3 positions open for nomination. Current and prospective Councillors are welcome to nominate when nominations open later this year. In addition, the State Government has legislated to include preferential voting in Local Government Elections. There will be further details made available in the near future explaining the process. In 2021 Council engaged the WA Electoral Commission to undertake a postal vote election, which was very successful with over 15% increase in voting. Council will again be undertaking a postal voting election.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor and want to find out more, please feel free to come and see the CEO or chat with one of the current Councillors about what it involves. There will be more information on this year’s election as we approach the nomination period.

Darren Mollenoyux



Nerea Ugarte

Manager of Governance and Community Services

Where are you from?

I am originally from Spain, more specifically from the Basque Country region, a beautiful part of the world renowned for its fantastic food and tapas, beautiful wines and the running of the bulls!

I left Spain in 1997 to take up an opportunity to work in China. Little did I know that my move to China would ultimately take me to Australia, courtesy of my Australian husband, whom I met in Beijing.

I moved to Perth in 1999 and Australia has been home since then.

What brought you to Bruce Rock?

After working for the State Government for 20 years, I felt it was time for a change, but not an abrupt one, as I was still interested in undertaking a public service role. Local Government was the clear option for me. This is where I felt I could make a real difference for the community.

In my search for a Local Government role, I stumbled across an ad from the Shire of Bruce Rock looking for a Manager of Governance and Community Services, and the rest is history!

What do you like about Bruce Rock?

Everything, really!

The town is beautiful, and it has fantastic facilities, which will be further enhanced with the building and future opening of our new supermarket.

People are incredibly friendly and welcoming. Based on my experience to date, I think the Shire's moto - "Bruce Rock, where friends become family" - is an accurate one.

Hobbies and interests?

I love sewing, although I do not have the time to sew as frequently as I would like to (plus I am not particularly good at it!).

When I was younger, I was passionate about learning languages, and I would like to start learning French and Italian again.

While I am not an expert, I follow the footy and I support both the Eagles and the Dockers, which I have been told is totally unacceptable. Sorry, I cannot choose one..

Spotlight on Staff!

WELCOME



Gary (Tom) Sedgwick

Caravan Park Caretaker

Where are you from?

Bruce Rock, born and bred.

What brought you to Bruce Rock?

The peace and familiarity of home bought me back; that and retirement!

What do you like about Bruce Rock?

What's not to love about Bruce Rock!

Hobbies and interests?

I love my sport, especially the footy. I'm a one eyed Eagles supporter!

Supermarket Supervisors



Our Engagement Officer had the opportunity to interview a group of very important supervisors of the supermarket construction work. Shayna managed to get some great responses to some pointed questions.

What do you think the new shop will sell?

"Bananas"

"Snacks"

"Capsicums"

What do you think the workers are doing?

"They are putting on the floor"

"Digging and mixing"

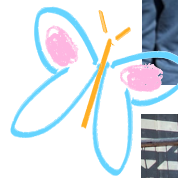
"Working hard"

What is our shop missing at the moment?

"A Roof!"

"Windows!"

"A Door!"

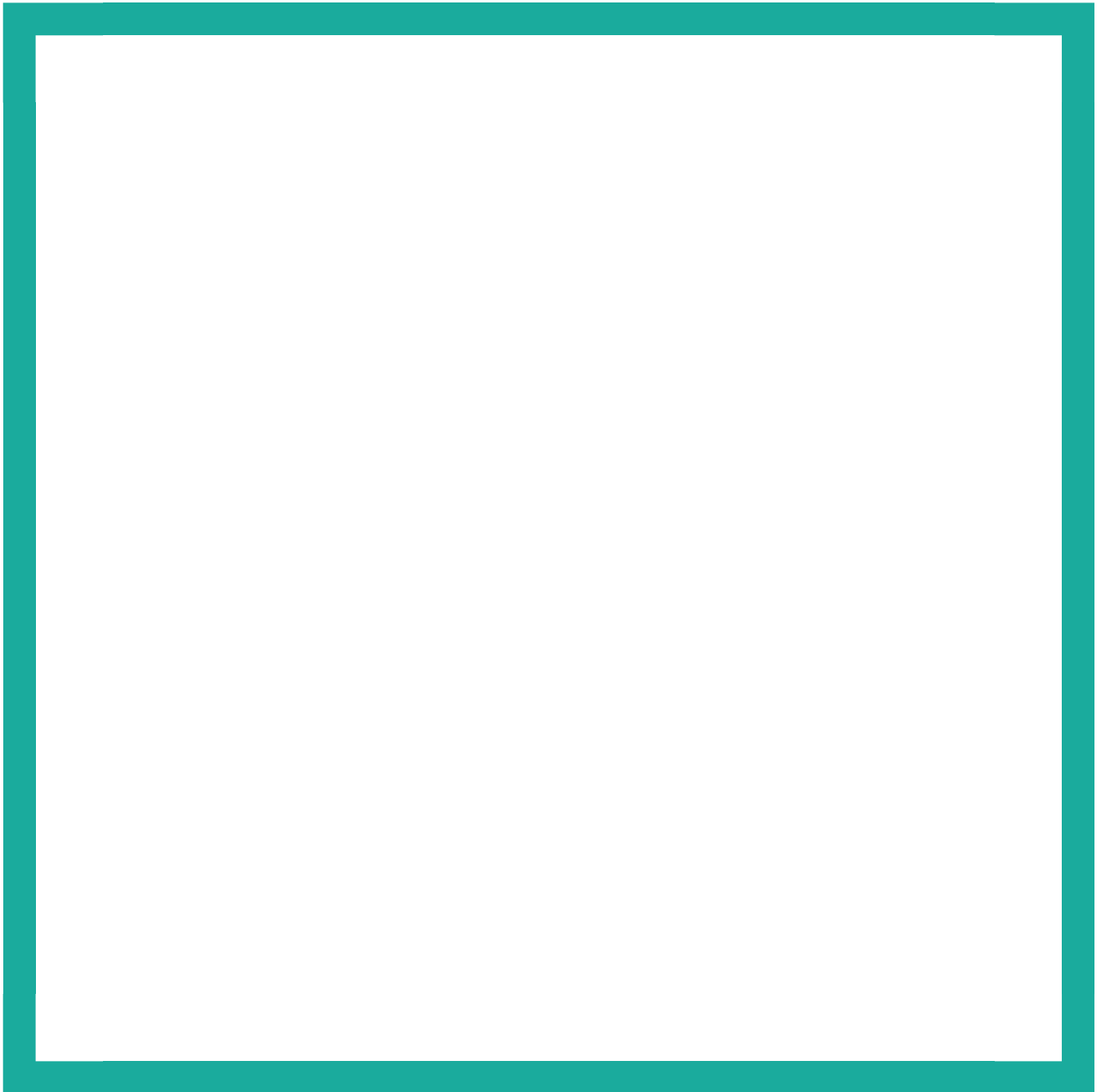


Name:

Age:

Our Supermarket

We are so excited to see our supermarket growing in size and CAN'T WAIT to see the finished product! Can you show us what YOU think our supermarket will look like when it's all finished?



****Submit your picture to the Shire Office to feature in next month's (June) newsletter****

From the Works Manager

Maintenance and Patching Works Crew

The Maintenance and Patching Crew have been completing various works throughout the Shire.

If you see any major faults in the sealed areas, please report it to the Administration Office so repairs can be arranged accordingly.

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!

Out with the Old, in with the New

After having served around 30 to 40 years, the old English made wicket roller will be retired. In this year's budget Council made the decision to purchase a new wicket roller.

The new roller was manufactured in Western Australia by a family-run company formed over 40 years ago, and will be a great addition to our fleet. We hope to get as many years out of our new roller as we have from the old one.

From the Works Manager

I would like to remind all that we are coming into the winter season and seeding has started. Please, beware of large vehicles on the road and our crew doing their maintenance works, and as always in the winter months, the slippery roads.

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 18th May 2023, where Council considered various matters. Council also undertook a brief tour of the new supermarket, inspected the new cricket pitch roller and inspected works at the Railway Dam. Below is a brief overview of some of the items and Council decisions from the meeting.

New Main Street Playground Project

As part of Council's Main Street Revitalisation, the next key project is a new adventure playground to be constructed on the northern side of the Amphitheatre. Council conducted community consultation last year to seek community input before engaging a playground designer to work on plans for the new playground. Council had a workshop prior to the Council meeting to finalise the scope of works prior to the playground designer preparing the proposals for consideration. There will be further public consultation as the project progresses. Council is also looking at various grants to assist in funding this exciting project.

Policy Manual Review

Each Local Government is required to have a Policy Manual to provide Council and staff with a formal written record of all policy decisions. A policy manual is to be reviewed annually. However, on occasions policies are amended more regularly or new ones implemented.

A Policy Manual aims to:

- provide staff with precise guidelines to act in accordance with Council's wishes;
- enable staff to act promptly in accordance with Council's requirements, but without continual reference to Council;
- enable Councillors to adequately handle enquiries from electors, but without undue reference to staff or Council;
- enable Council to maintain a continual review of Council policy decisions, and to ensure they are in keeping with community expectations, current trends and circumstances; and
- enable ratepayers to obtain immediate advice on matters of Council policy.

At the May 2023 Council meeting there were a few minor changes to various policies to recognise the change of position title of the Deputy CEO to the Manager of Governance and Community Services, as well as removal of reference to the Skeleton Weed Coordinator, which is no longer hosted by the Shire. There were also some minor variations to Council's purchase order signing policy to vary purchase order signing limits for certain staff. These changes were unanimously endorsed by Council.

Council Meeting Outcomes

Roadworks

With the end of financial year approaching, the Manager of Works gave an overview of the status of the 2022/23 Roads Program, which has been completed. Good progress has been made on the construction and maintenance program this year, and the Works Manager and the Works and Services Committee have already undertaken a large amount of planning for the 2023/24 Roads Program.

Aquatic Centre - Heating

Council received an update from the Environmental Health Officer on the research being undertaken to replace or upgrade the current heating system for the swimming pool. Patrons of the pool will have noticed that the water was a lot cooler during this summer due to issues with the current heat mats. Council will consider the most effective, efficient and economical options, and a budget provision will be made in the 2023/24 budget to ensure works are completed in readiness for next summer.

Long-Term Financial Plan

Council staff have been busy liaising with a consultant to assist in the preparation of the Shire's Draft Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for the period 2023-2033.

The LTFP is a 10-year rolling plan that is used to activate priorities in the Strategic Community Plan.

The LTFP:

- provides an indication of a Local Government's long-term financial sustainability;
- allows early identification of financial issues and their longer-term impacts;
- shows the linkages between specific plans and strategies; and
- enhances the transparency and accountability of the Council.

The LTFP is an internal planning tool used to support the Shire of Bruce Rock's broader strategic planning framework and, in particular, the Strategic Community Plan. It will assist in the preparation of future Annual Budgets and project planning. The LTFP is a key component of the Shire's integrated planning framework and enables the Shire to set priorities, based on the resourcing capabilities for the delivery of short, medium and long-term priorities. It is important to note that the LTFP is based on a range of assumptions and strategies considered reasonable at the time of developing the LTFP. However, it is not a commitment or guarantee that the assumptions or economic conditions will remain aligned, demonstrating the importance of annual reviews.

Council considered and adopted the LTFP for the period 2023-2033, as presented.

Business Opportunity



EOI 1.2022.23 Bruce Rock Supermarket Retail Lease

The Shire of Bruce Rock has an exciting opportunity for a highly experienced supermarket owner/operator to lease and operate their own business in a new premises owned by Council. The Shire is in the process of constructing a purpose built, 1500m² supermarket and hardware store in prime location in the centre of the main street shopping precinct.

The building replaces the previous supermarket in Bruce Rock and will boast superior layout, fittings, fixtures, plant and equipment.

To obtain a business pack, contact Rob Hubbard on 0408 937 860 or email robhubbard@bigpond.com

