

Shire of Bruce Rock

Newsletter

September 2023



Shire of
Bruce Rock

Where friends become family

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CEO Report

As we reflect on the past month the highlight has been the significant milestones reached with the new supermarket, however there has been plenty of other work happening with the new budget programs underway and staff planning the next significant projects, such as the roads program and new adventure playground, as well as implementation of new legislation requirements and governance.

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.

Supermarket Completed

On the 19th September works on the construction and fit out of the new Supermarket were completed, with the keys handed to the new retailers on the 21st September 2023 for the commencement of their five year lease. Kulwant and Sukhreet will now work hard with their staff to have the Supermarket ready for opening on the 23rd October 2023. This will be a significant moment in the Shire's history. It was also great to see Kulwant and some of his family at the Bruce Rock Ag Show and he and his family were made to feel really welcome as they got to experience our community in action.

The temporary supermarket run by Council will close its doors at 5.30pm Thursday 19th October 2023, this will allow time over the weekend to transfer the remaining stock to the new supermarket (purchased by new retailers) in readiness for their opening on the Monday.

Council is holding a Official Opening function in the main street to celebrate this significant community project. Full details are provided in this newsletter.

2023 Council Elections

The 2023 Local Government Elections are now underway with 6 nominations received for 4 positions on Council. Everyone should have received their ballot papers in the mail for this Postal Election, if you have not received your ballot paper please contact Returning Officer Rochelle Guest at the CRC or the Shire Office. The counting of votes and announcement will be held on Saturday 21st October 2023.

Bruce Rock Railway Crane and Ramp

As part of the development works for the new adventure playground next to the Bruce Rock amphitheatre an assessment of the old railway ramp and crane was undertaken and consideration of incorporation into the design. In consultation with Public Transport Authority it has been determined that the ramp will be removed due to the failing structure surrounds, minimal usage and difficulties in incorporating it into the playground design. However, Council is pleased to advise that the crane can be retained, will be painted with lighting and form part of the new playground landscaping. The ramp will be removed in the near future.

CEO Report

Aquatic Centre Opening

With the weather starting to warm up our new Aquatic Centre Manager, Brett Waye has been busy getting the pool ready for the summer. Dependent on water testing results it is anticipated that the pool will open on the 20th October 2023, or as close to that date as possible.

Regional Meetings

The CEO and Shire President have been busy attending regional meetings throughout the month of September. At the Great Eastern Zone Meeting of the WA Local Government Association we received regional updates on activities and topical issues from WA Country Health Service and Department of Fire & Emergency Services, as well as addressing various Local Government topics affecting the sector. The Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) held in Merredin discussed various matters including funding opportunities for future accommodation projects across the region, reappointed the real estate management and reappointing Elders and had a presentation from Evoke Living Homes on their business model and modular homes that are manufactured in Northam. The final regional meeting of the month was the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC), which is made up of the Shires of Bruce Rock, Tammin, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Westonia and Southern Cross. Some of the topics addressed at the WEROC Meeting included; undertaking a housing analysis of WEROC Shires, future economic development within our Local Governments, Development of a WEROC Tourism Drive Trail, update on the Wheatbelt NRM Corella Management Plan and Coordinator (which Bruce Rock is part of), regional waste management Community Energy Upgrade funding. All of these regional meetings assist Council in working collaboratively with our neighbours and keep up to date with topics impacting at a local and sector wide level.

WALGA Recognition

The Staff and Councillors at the Shire of Bruce Rock would like to congratulate Shire President Stephen Strange and Councillor Phillip Negri on their recent WALGA life membership and merit award respectively. Below you can read the article pieces about their accolades in the feature articles from the 2023 Local Futures Honours Brochure.



Phillip Negri

A third generation Bruce Rock farmer, Phillip Negri has always been heavily involved in volunteering for local community groups. Elected to the Shire of Bruce Rock in 2015, Phillip is also the Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer and represents the Council on a number of advisory groups and committees including the Bushfire Advisory Committee. He is particularly passionate about ensuring quality aged care facilities and health services are available in the town, and is the Council representative on Central AgCare, the Local Health Advisory Group and the District Health Advisory Group. During Phillip's service, he has been a key contributor to two projects that will have a lasting legacy for the future generations of the community, namely as a member of the Doctor Recruitment Panel, and also participating in the community efforts to establish a temporary grocery store in town when the former store was lost in a fire.

Congratulations!



Stephen Strange

An outstanding leader who has served his community since 1989, Stephen Strange is the Shire of Bruce Rock's longest ever serving President, elected to the position in 1997.

Dedicating over half his life to community representation, Stephen is a passionate and active community member who has only missed five Council meetings and two WALGA conferences in his 34 years of Local Government service.

As a State Councillor, Stephen is currently the chair of both the Infrastructure Policy Team and the Freight Policy Forum, and a member of the CEO Performance Review Committee. Stephen has also previously been a member of the Association's Electoral Reform Policy Forum, the Mayors and Presidents Policy Forum, the Members First Advisory Team, the Local Government Mentoring Program for new Shire Presidents and the Country Policy Forum.

Passionate about the critical importance of quality country roads and the delivery of sustainable and effective road networks, Stephen regularly lobbies for improved road funding and better infrastructure; and has been a member of various delegations and representations to the WA Premier, Ministers, and director generals, as well as federal politicians and commissioners.

He is also dedicated to the establishment of quality regional aged care and was an inaugural member of the Central Eastern Aged Care Alliance which constructed 71 two-bedroom units across 11 Shires throughout the Wheatbelt.

Stephen has exceptional connections and relationships across the Local Government sector and regularly mentors new Shire Presidents. He is always available for public speaking engagements and media enquiries, promoting the interests of regional Western Australia and strengthening the Local Government sector.

Locally, Stephen has spearheaded many exciting and innovative community projects such as the redevelopment of the Bruce Rock Recreation Centre, the construction of both Acacia House and the Bruce Rock Medical Centre, the upgrades to the Bruce Rock Aquatic Centre, the development of the Bruce Rock Amphitheatre and Remembrance Park, and the construction of factory units in the town.

In 2020, when the Bruce Rock grocery store was destroyed by fire, Stephen, together with other local community leaders, worked tirelessly to establish a temporary grocery store in the Town Hall to ensure locals had almost immediate and continued access to groceries and essential supplies. This effort was recognised when the Shire received a Highly Commended Resilient Australia Award in 2020. Stephen has since spearheaded the Council's efforts to secure funding to build a new supermarket, with this facility due to be opened at the end of 2023.

In both his role as Shire President and also as a local volunteer fire fighter, Stephen led the community through the devastation of the 2022 bushfires which destroyed 45,000 hectares of land across two Shires, working tirelessly with the joint recovery committee to assist in the recovery efforts.

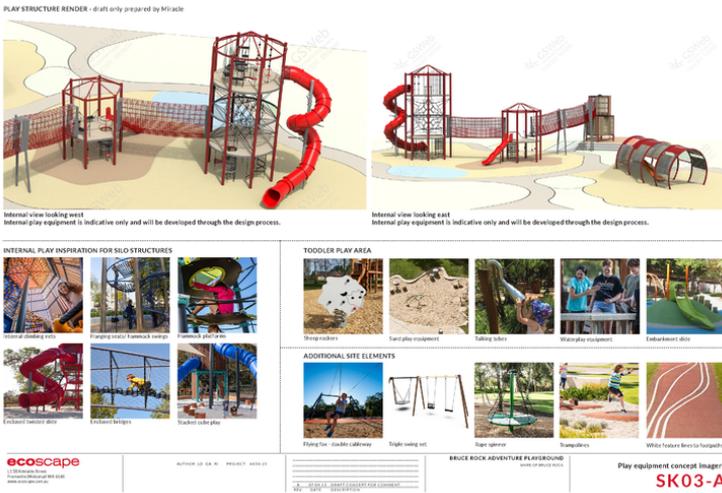
Aside from his many state and regional commitments, Stephen has represented the Shire on the Bruce Rock Land and Conservation Committee, the Landcare Conservation Committee, the Local Emergency Management Committee, the Bushfire Advisory Committee, the District Health Advisory Group and the Bruce Rock Community Resource Centre Committee.

A highly respected leader, and a dedicated community representative, Stephen is a worthy recipient of the WALGA Life Membership Award.

Update from the CDO

Playground Draft Concept Plan

Draft concept plans have been received for the new playground that will be constructed in the Main Street to the north of the Amphitheatre. The draft features a variety of traditional, adventure, interactive and open play areas. The design is targeted to a wide range of ages, with a dedicated toddlers area and more daring play equipment for older children. The design also includes landscaping, shaded areas and seating options. We debuted the draft at the Bruce Rock Agricultural Show, and have since held two public consultation sessions. The concept plan is able to be viewed on our website in the 'Latest News' section or in person at the Shire Office. A smaller version is included on the following pages, but to see the plan in detail please go to one of the aforementioned sources. If you would like to offer any feedback on the plan, please get in touch with Community Development Officer, Caris Negri, on 9061 1377 or caris.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au



Improvements to Facilities

We have recently undertaken minor improvements to the Amphitheatre and Recreation Centre entertainment areas. A built up planter box at the Amphitheatre near the kiosk window has been converted into a bench seat to improve seating options and the aesthetics of the area. The barbeque facilities at the Recreation Centre have been improved with a built in bench around the barbeque, to be used with assisting preparing and serving food when hosting events at this area. There are future larger improvement works for the barbeque area at the Amphitheatre scheduled, and the Recreation Centre entertainment area will receive some additional furniture in the near future.

Update from the CDO

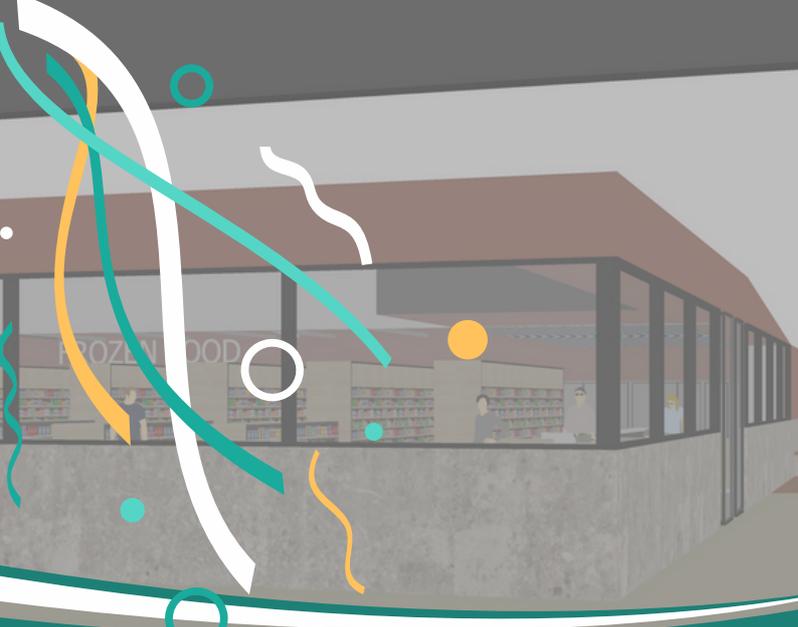
Local Tourism Training

Every year, we partner with the Community Resource Centre (CRC) to ensure our local businesses are aware of the attractions and facilities within our Shire so they are able to accurately inform visitors who may ask questions when attending their business. Earlier this month, the CRC held an information session which was informative and well run. Many thanks to the CRC for their work in putting this together. If you missed out on the opportunity to attend and would like to know more about our tourism features and future plans, please get in touch with either the Shire Administration Office or the CRC.

Bruce Rock Ag Show

The Bruce Rock & Districts Agricultural Society held the Bruce Rock Agricultural Show on the 16th of September. Congratulations to the committee for an incredibly successful event, with 1500 people through the gate. There was something for all ages with entertainment, rides, sideshow alley, lifestyle stalls, food and beverage options, trade displays, informative stands, a bursting exhibition hall, animals and much more! The day was completed with a very impressive fireworks display. Well done and thank you to everyone who volunteered their time for the organising and running of the day. Thanks to our hard working depot team, we were able to feature our 1923 Buick in the 'Show and Shine' display, which had a range of fantastic vintage and modern cars to peruse.

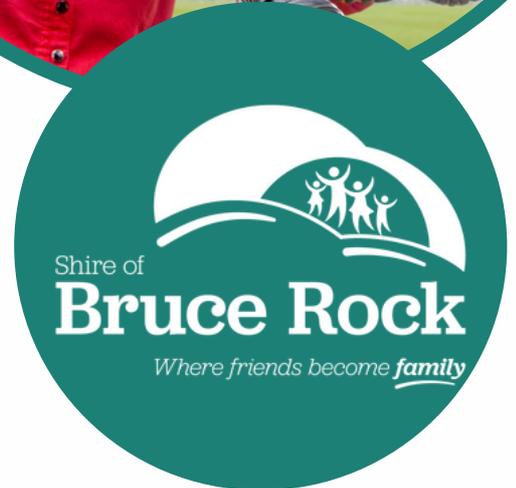




GRAND OPENING *Sundowner*

Join us in celebrating the greatly anticipated opening of our New Supermarket. Formal proceedings to begin from 4.30pm Friday the 27th of October Main Street Bruce Rock.

- ✓ Kids Entertainment
- ✓ Food and Music
- ✓ Fun



From the Works Manager

Town Crew

The Town Crew has been busy completing works around the new shop precinct, installing the new footpath and crossovers for the shop, and resealing Bath St from Johnson St to Butcher St, we hope to have this completed before the opening.

The crew have been undertaking small private works for various residents around town and land holders. Staff are able to carry out small private works jobs, please contact the Shire Office for your works request

Construction works to be carried out:

This financial year will be carrying out the following roadworks,

- We have 3 major construction projects the locations are,
- Old Beverley Rd
- Totadgin Rd
- Yarding Ardath Rd
- 3 resealing projects on:
 - Shackleton - Kellerberrin Rd
 - Bruce Rock - Doodlakine Rd
 - Bath St asphalt reseal in the new shop precinct.

There is also major upgrades to our airport and infrastructure, this will include,

- re-sealing the runway,
- installing new gables (markers) down the edge of the runway,
- and electrical and radio upgrades.

There is also drainage and bridge works that will be in progress through the year, some of the locations are:

- Bridge works at Erikin North and South Roads,
- Drainage works at Narembeen Boundary Rd and the Cemetery,

Crews will also complete our footpath and kerbing program for 2023/24 at:

- Teasdale Rd kerbing,
- Brownley and Leever's St footpaths

For any queries about any of the projects and when they planned to be completed, please call the office.

Dave Holland

From the Works Manager

Maintenance Grading & Verge Spraying

The construction crew has been out completing our maintenance grading program over the past 5 months. There have been some good rains at times, but it is getting to the end and with little and loss of moisture, we should be completing the final roads in mid-October.

Council workers have undertaken the verge spraying this year, with all reports coming in this has gone well this was finalised at the end of September.

Town Gardens and Recreation Centre Crew

The gardeners have been busy all over town and out centres keeping all the parks, garden beds and public areas tidy.

Over the September period the Rec Centre Manager and gardeners were very busy preparing the oval for the finals of the winter sports, two school sporting events and the agricultural show, with the oval coming up a treat even after some frosts over the winter period.

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!

Town Sweeper and Bulk Rubbish Pickup

In leui of the Kellerberrin sweeper being available we have engaged a private company to continue sweeping the streets while the Kellerberrin one has necessary repairs made. We will be reengaging their services once their sweeper is back in operation.

We will be also conducting our annual bulk rubbish collection soon. Keep an eye out for dates as to when you should put your rubbish out on our socials and in local publications.

From the Works Manager

As we come out of our maintenance season and into our construction season, please help our crews and do the right thing when going through their works. What they do is important and helps everyone traveling through our great Shire.

Please be safe and travel to the conditions we want to see you back in this great Shire.

Dave Holland

Council Meeting Outcomes

Council met for its latest Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 21st September 2023, with the highlight of the day handing over the keys for the new Supermarket to the new retailers. This was a significant moment and Council looks forward to the doors opening on the 23rd October 2023. Council also discussed and addressed various other matters, below is a brief snapshot of some of the items addressed;

Community Crop

The Shire of Bruce Rock leases the cropping rights to the community crop located on the land immediately surrounding the Airstrip. The intention of this is to assist local community groups to raise funds for their activities and thus provide benefit to the wider community, with the current lease is due to expire on 28 February 2024. Council has reviewed the policy and terms of the lease which will now be advertised to seek Expressions of Interest for consideration at the October 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

2023/24 Roads Program

Council considered the quotes received for the supply and spray of bitumen or emulsion for the 2023/24 road sealing program. Four tenders were received and the successful company was Bitutek. Council's roads construction program will commence in the coming months.

Large Plant & Equipment Purchases

Council considered the quotes received for various plant and equipment in line with the 2023/2024 budget. The changeover of two major plant awarded at the September 2023 Meeting were the Prime Mover and Town Loader.

InCasa Presentation

Council received presentation by Misty Morton from InCasa regarding their staying in home care package model that has been successfully implemented in Pingelly and several other regional communities. Further updates on this model and potential for Bruce Rock will now be investigated.

Business Housing

Staff conducted a survey of local businesses to identify accommodation needs in the Shire to assist with lobbying for more rental housing in both our Shire and the region. As part of Council's economic development priorities, accommodation is a key focus area and we will continue to look at opportunities to assist local businesses with attracting investment and grant funding to assist in the attraction and retention of staff.

Dunstall & Johnson Street Intersection

Council received an update on the progress with lobbying Main Roads WA to work with the Shire to improve the intersection at Johnson and Dunstall Streets. The CEO and Manager of Works met on site with the Regional Manager of Main Roads WA, highlighting Council's and the community concerns regarding the warrant for improved traffic flow and reduced confusion at this intersection. Council will continue to liaise with Main Roads WA to work towards a plan that meets the considerations of all parties.