



Newsletter

Quarter 2 2020

From the CEO's Desk

2020 has certainly been packed with the unexpected, and to say it has been an interesting few months at the Shire would be an understatement. The trials and tribulations of dealing with the pandemic and then the loss and setup and running a grocery store has tested Council, staff and the community but I am very proud to say that we have all dealt with the issues head on and are coming out on top. There are too many businesses, community groups and individuals to name them all but I would like to thank the entire community for their efforts in reducing the impacts of Covid19 and to all of those who have assisted in the recovery following the shop fire and with the establishment and running of the temporary grocery store.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the enormous effort and countless hours that the Shire staff have been fully committed to ensuring the successful set up and running of the grocery store whilst handling all of the administrative requirements associated with Covid 19 for both the organisation and the community. In addition a big thanks to Janine, Chance, Rachel, Val and Lisa for their great work in running the temporary grocery store, your knowledge and dedication is appreciated by everyone.

Over the past few months we have had several staff changes with the first being David Holland returning to the Shire as our new Manager of Works & Services. David has previously worked here and returns to oversee Council's roads, works and services programs. Caris Negri has been appointed as our new Community Development Officer taking over from Ashleigh Waight who has moved to Beverly and work at the Shire there. Maddison Aurisch has just started as our new Customer Service Officer filling the position vacated by Caris.

In addition to changes in the office there have been some changes in the works crew, with some long term staff retiring. We are pleased to announce that Brock Williams has been promoted to the position of Roads Supervisor, replacing Colin Brownley who retired late last year. Peter Elliot also retired at the end of June after 46 years of long and loyal service. Peter's skills and knowledge will be missed, however we wish Peter and Sharlene all the best in retirement.

As we head into the new financial year there is plenty to be excited about in the Shire of Bruce Rock. The Main Street Revitalisation plans are nearing completion and works will commence on stage one. The new sewerage scheme has now been completed and residents are now connecting. The new CEACA independent living units are now completed and ready for occupancy, and Council is finalising the budget for other projects in 2020/21.



Darren Mollenoyux
Chief Executive Officer

Council Meeting Outcomes



Whilst not able to meet in person during the peak of the epidemic Councillors were still as involved as ever in ensuring the good governance of the Shire. Staff worked closely with Councillors through these trying times and ensured the best outcomes for our community, not only addressing major issues but doing so under different formats to normal. April and May Council Meetings and other special meetings and update sessions were held via videoconference, as seen in the image above. Whilst this was different to the normal way Council meetings were conducted, our Councillors were very adaptable and the meetings were very successful. June 2020 saw Council resume in-person meetings, and it was great to meet face to face again. Some of the items that Council has been dealing with included;

Council Supporting its Community through COVID19

Over the past few Council Meetings Council has been assessing ways to support the community through the COVID19 Pandemic, and, whilst already supporting the community with the set up and running of a temporary grocery store, Council has resolved to freeze its rate in the dollar for 2020/21 financial year. In addition to this Council has adopted a COVID19 Financial Hardship Policy to assist ratepayers, debtors and those businesses who have been significantly affected or been temporarily closed during the pandemic. The policy's objective is "To give effect to the Shire's commitment to support the whole community to meet the unprecedented challenges arising from the COVID19 pandemic, the Shire of Bruce Rock recognises that these challenges may result in financial hardship for our ratepayers and debtors. This Policy is intended to ensure that we offer fair, equitable, consistent and dignified support to ratepayers suffering hardship, while treating all members of the community with respect and understanding at this difficult time." For further details on the COVID19 Financial Hardship Policy please visit the Latest News section of our website for further details.

Council will also be taking the financial impacts of the pandemic into its budget deliberations and will freeze fees and charges for 12 months, revise fees and charges of Sporting Clubs that have had their season and facility usage affected, undertake infrastructure projects that will benefit local businesses and contractors, and investigate other measures that will assist the community in its economic recovery.

Main Street Revitalisation

Exciting times ahead with Council working closely with streetscape designers at Element WA. Plans were nearing completion earlier this year in readiness for public viewing, however with the loss of the grocery store the plans are being reviewed and revised. Council addressed the plans again at its June 2020 Council meeting and are awaiting future direction on a grocery store in town which will affect various components of the plans. Once Council is in a position to finalise the plans for the public they will be made available. What Council can announce is that stage 1 will commence in the new financial year with two significant projects. The first will be two temporary alfresco parklets in the main street to assess the usage and impacts on parking prior to a final decision on permanent fixtures. The second is the redevelopment of Sculpture Park and the war memorials. Please watch out for this announcement in the Rock Review and on social media.

As a bit of a teaser, the future stages will include; an adventure playground, significant streetscaping, re-integrating the amphitheatre, improved connectivity across Johnson Street business precinct, investigating multipurpose building options, shop facade improvements, improvement to Johnson St and Dunstall Street intersection and entry statements on the entry points to main street.

Water Capturing Improvements

In March 2020 we were facing the possibility of running out of water for our oval, parks and gardens with our dams at a critical low. Thankfully with the balance of cutting back on watering and just enough rainfall events we were able to scrape through. Council and staff have been investigating options to improve our water capturing going forward to ensure a sustainable water supply into the future. Working with a local farmer we were able to secure additional water storage and improve drainage for stormwater runoff, and whilst this will assist, Council is still planning other improvements into the future.

Temporary Supermarket

Following the loss of Masons Shopping Centre Council made the decision to set up and run a temporary grocery store until a suitable alternative option was established. Council has been making several decisions on the temporary store at Council meetings and also liaising with relevant parties as to potential options for the future. Council continues to liaise with the co-owner of Masons Shopping Centre and when will provide updates to the community when it is appropriate to do so.

Works Report



Maintenance Grading

The Maintenance Grading season is on again with the crews commencing in May at the North Eastern section of the Shire. With the rain over the past few weeks it has enabled a good start. If there are any bad areas of gravel roads that require attention or extra tree pruning while we are in the area please give the office a call, and we will attempt to include these areas to keep the gravel roads safe and accessible.

Town Gardens

Gardeners have been busy around town keeping the parks, garden beds and public areas tidy. Water was an issue with the lack of rain earlier this year so if anyone sees a break in any of the reticulation please report it to the office so it can be fixed straight away. Slashing and weed control around town plus in Ardath, Babakin and Shackleton has been completed helping to keep the towns tidy.

Town Crew

The Town Crew has been busy completing bridge replacements, finishing new kerbing on Swan St, this will be an ongoing project to have the whole town completed within a few years. The concrete crew have been busy with private works jobs such as shed pads, driveways and crossovers.

Construction Crew

Construction on the Bruce Rock Naremben Rd has been completed with the inclusion of the second seal that was to be completed next year but was bought forward to stabilise the first seal.

This Shire's 2019/20 Capital Works budget has now been completed and we are now in the process of compiling next year's projects.

With the last section of Bruce Rock Naremben Rd coming to its conclusion, more re-seals, gravel re-sheeting, kerbing, footpaths and bridge replacements are some of the projects to be included into next year's budget.

Keep Our Staff Safe

Council would also like to remind motorists to take caution when travelling through roadworks. Every effort is taken to minimize the impact to traffic flow during roadworks, but please obey the signage and be patient as there are sometimes delays or minor holdups. Council and its staff appreciate your patience and understanding.

As it has come into the wet season please be reminded that the roads will be slippery and take care on the gravel roads and to always drive to the conditions whether you're on a gravel or sealed road, and have a safe journey where ever you travel around the area or state.

Community Update

Main Street Revitalisation—Parklets

As part of Council's Main Street Revitalisation Strategy, trial 'parklets' will be set up in front of both Bruce Rock Café and Bruce Rock Meats. This will give patrons the option to enjoy their coffees and meals in a pleasant outside environment that keeps the street clear for pedestrians. If these parklets are a success, Council will look at installing them permanently. Keep an eye out in the coming weeks—they will be established towards the end of the month.

Amphitheatre Gardens

Another component of Council's Main Street Revitalisation Strategy is to enhance the existing War Memorials and revitalise the Amphitheatre Sculpture Garden. In consultation with the local veterans group, and John Schnaars of Honouring Indigenous War Graves, a plan has been devised to re-locate the Memorials into the sculpture park area to create a 'Memorial Garden'. The existing main War Memorial landscaping will be opened up so it feeds into the garden area and creates a cohesive memorial experience. The memorials will be complemented by interpretive signage to provide context, and new artwork to evoke the memorials' sentiment.

Council has committed a part of the 2020/21 budget to this project, and is seeking funding from external sources.

Bruce's Rock

In partnership with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, new interpretative signage has been created for the Bruce's Rock reserve. The signage includes information on the history of the rock, including when John Rufus Bruce used it to dry sandalwood, to modern picnic times as well as native flora and fauna that can be found in the reserve's habitat. To further enhance the reserve site, along with the new signage picnic benches will also be installed, and the roads will be improved.

Welcome to
Bruce Rock Nature Reserve

Bruce Rock was named after sandalwood puller John Rufus Bruce who had a camp here. Bruce was born at Albany in May 1851. He became an experienced sandalwooder and coastal trader. In 1879 he was contracted by MacKail and Co. of Albany, and went overland from Albany to York and Beverley to cut sandalwood for the firm.

Like other sandalwooders he travelled alone with a horse and dray, cross-cut saw, an adze, a couple of sharp axes, and stores for several months. He followed the tracks that led from one rocky outcrop to another, where the sandalwooders had put down shallow soak-wells that filled with water seeping from nearby rock catchments. When the farmers came to take up land in the district from 1908, the sandalwood had been cut out and the rock outcrops became the focus for community picnics.



Photo at Bruce Rock ca. 1912/13

Things to see and do

- Picnicking:** Continue the local tradition and enjoy a picnic here among the sheoaks and watties.
- Walking and wildlife watching:** Explore Bruce Rock with a walk onto the granite outcrop. The reserve is home to many kinds of wildlife and seasonal wildflowers. Absorb the sights and sounds and enjoy your visit.

The favourite months for picnics were September and October, when the grass about the rock was a lush green, the watties a shower of gold and the bush bright with pink everlasting and other wildflowers. The women spent days preparing food, the men erected marquees, marked off the ground for the sporting events and lit the fires over which kerosene tins came to the boil. There was often a dance at night and while the couples danced on the bare earth, men were busy grubbing out roots lest the dancers should stub their toes.
from John K. Ewers (1989) Bruce Rock - The Story of a District



Early Picnic at Butler's Rock

Meet our Team



Name: David Holland

Job Position: Manager of works and services

How long have you worked at the Shire? First time just over 4 years, second time now 3 months.

What is the best part of your job? Working with the people I do both inside & outside staff, and see projects completed from start to finish.

What are your hobbies/community interests? Golf & I have an interest in prospecting for gold.

Top Four TV Shows/Movies/Books/Podcasts:

1. Big Bang theory
2. Star Wars (But not all the movies)
3. Don't read books
4. What is a podcast??

What is the most interesting place you have visited? Canada & New Zealand. They are both stunning places to visit, and the Calgary stampede is the best show on earth. It is worth going to.

What is your favourite sports team?
North Melbourne

Name: Maddi Aurisch

Job Position: Customer Service Officer

How long have you worked at the Shire?: 4 weeks

What is the best part of your job? That every day is different.

What are your hobbies/community interests:
Bottle feeding 17 lambs

Top Four TV Shows/Movies/Books/Podcasts:

1. Farmer wants a wife (If it ever airs)
2. McLeod's daughters
3. Pretty Woman
4. Dirty Dancing

What is the most interesting place you have visited?: Las Vegas

What is your favourite sports team? Whoever is winning





CEACA

Supporting Age Friendly Communities

CEACA Units Available Now!



Introducing new CEACA Referral Program!

Refer a friend, family member or acquaintance to our units and if the person they referred is successful, the referrer will be paid a one-off sum of **\$250!**

Available units

Central East Aged Care Alliance Inc (CEACA) aims to provide affordable housing in the wheatbelt region.

The following CEACA sites are now fully occupied: Koorda, Westonia, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Bencubbin.

Two bedroom units are available in the following Shires and we invite expressions of interest to be sent to us at info@ceaca.org.au: Merredin, Kellerberrin, Beacon, Yilgarn, Wyalkatchem, Bruce Rock, and Trayning.

All units come with a split system air-conditioner in the main living area and ceiling fans in the bedrooms.

The interior of the units are furnished with good quality carpet and blinds.

The tenants are all settling in well and are enjoying their new home. If you have someone in mind who would be interested in renting one of our units, but need to know more or are unsure of whether they would be eligible, please let us know.



Tenant feedback

The following are some comments from some of our happy tenants!

Lorraine & Laurie

Really like our new unit, very spacious and roomy. Love how we have a small community of people here who are helpful and neighbourly but also respectful of each other's privacy.

Graeme & Judith

We love our unit here in Kellerberrin. It is rather spacious and has heaps of storage. Living in a village community makes you feel quite safe everyone looks out for each other. And we are within walking distance of the shops. That gives us some exercise.

Rose & Terry

Life at the Kellerberrin units is great, everyone is friendly and we have get together for special occasions. New Year's Eve the tenants got together, we took our tables and chairs out under the tree and it was a great night for all. I would fully recommend living at these units.

Get in touch
for any inquiries

(08) 9441 4815
0414 136 687

✉ info@ceaca.org.au
www.ceaca.org.au

TELL A FARM FRIEND



The St Vincent de Paul Society is working with The Salvation Army to deliver the Australian Government's Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI) – Round 2 for eligible drought affected households.

Up to \$3,000 per household is available to farmers, farm workers or farm suppliers/contractors who are struggling financially because of the drought. You must be over 18 years of age to apply, be an Australian Citizen or permanent resident, and live or work in an eligible Local Government Area.



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Eligible households can apply for assistance by:

Applying online: www.vinnies.org.au/drougthelp To find out more please call 1300 846 643