

Shire of Bruce Rock

Newsletter

October 2023



Shire of
Bruce Rock

Where friends become family



*Where friends become **family***

CEO Report

WOW, what a month! October has been a very busy time for the Shire and Bruce Rock community. The new supermarket construction was completed, the supermarket opened its doors, Council held its official opening of the supermarket, the Aquatic Centre opened for the summer and we also saw the Local Government Elections held with three Councillors retiring, a new Councillor elected and a new President being appointed.

Below is a brief snapshot of recent activities and updates from the past month. 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.

Council Elections Results

On the 30th October 2023, newly elected Councillors were sworn in at a Special Meeting of Council, followed by the election of President and Deputy President.

Graeme Currie JP was present to witness the swearing in of Cr Kevin Foss, Cr Stephen Strange, Cr Tony Crooks and new Councillor Perry Hodgkiss.

Councillor terms are as follows:

Cr Kevin Foss	16 October 2027
Cr Stephen Strange	16 October 2027
Cr Perry Hodgkiss	16 October 2027
Cr Ram Rajagopalan	18 October 2025
Cr Tony Crooks	18 October 2025
Cr Brendon Waight	18 October 2025
Cr Jen Verhoogt	18 October 2025



New President Elected

The CEO then conducted the election of President and Deputy President at the Special Meeting of Council, with Council electing Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan as the new President and Cr Tony Crooks as the Deputy President for the next two years.

I would like to thank Stephen Strange for his outstanding long service as Shire President dedicating 26 and a half years serving the Bruce Rock community as President. Stephen will continue to provide valuable input and support as a Councillor for the next four years.

I would also like to thank and recognize the three retiring Councillors, being Phillip Negri, Natalie Kilminster and Rebecca Waye, for their valued service on Council. I wish them the best for their next endeavours.



Darren Mollenoyux

CEO Report

Supermarket Officially Opened

The new Bruce Rock supermarket opened its doors to the public on the 23rd October 2023, with Kylie Griffiths being the first customer to go through the doors, while around 40 people gathered to witness and be part of history. On Friday 27th, Council held its Official Opening Community Function, which saw a large crowd turn out to recognise the efforts of everyone involved over the past three and a half years, and to also celebrate this amazing milestone for the Shire and community.



Aquatic Centre Opening

The Aquatic Centre opened its doors to the public during the month. Our new Aquatic Centre Manager, Brett Wayne and Council's works and building crews worked hard to have everything ready for the first day. Whilst the weather has not been very hot yet it has still been a popular place to be with the water already sitting at 24 degrees. Season passes can be obtained at the Shire Office or at the Aquatic Centre.

Pool hours are as follows:

- Mon: Closed
- Tues: 1pm - 6pm
- Wed: 6am - 8am, 1pm - 6pm
- Thurs: 1pm - 6pm
- Fri: 6am - 8am, 1pm - 6pm
- Sat & Sun: 10am - 6pm

Happy Swimming!



Darren Mollenoyux

Update from the CDO

Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion

The 2023 Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion begins this week, running from the 1st - 8th November 2023. There is a lot happening throughout the town for the week, and all activities are open to all community members and visitors. If you want to get involved and have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Shire Administration Office. All the visiting veterans are incredibly friendly and always up for a chat, so make sure you say hello when bumping into them around town!

Wheatbelt Medical Students Immersion Program

The Wheatbelt Medical Students Immersion Program will be running again in 2024. This is jointly organised by Rural Health West and Notre Dame University, and sees groups of approximately 20 first-year medical students visit Wheatbelt towns for four days to experience the reality of living in a rural community. The program has been running for a few years now, and there have been success stories of students who visited choosing to undertake rural work further in their studies and careers. The students will be in Bruce Rock 12th - 15th March 2024. If you are interested in hosting a couple of students at your home, please get in touch with Rural Health West - 08 6389 4567 or futureworkforce@ruralhealthwest.com.au

Harvest Ban and Total Fire Ban Notifications

Harvest has well and truly begun, and the hot summer days are not far away. To make sure you are kept informed when a Harvest Ban or Total Fire Ban is in place within our Shire, make sure you are registered for our Harvest Ban SMS notification service. You can sign up via our website, ring 08 9061 1377 or email admin@brucerock.wa.gov.au



Can you accommodate a couple of medical students for three nights?



Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program

TUESDAY 12 TO FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024

Share what living in the Wheatbelt is like with doctors of the future

More than one hundred medical students will be coming to the Wheatbelt in March 2024. During their stay, they will visit local farms, industry, general practices, hospitals and schools, and participate in community activities.

We need you to provide real-life experiences that will give them an understanding of what it is like to live in the Wheatbelt and perhaps inspire them to become rural doctors.

The students will visit the following towns:

- Bruce Rock
- Cunderdin
- Kellerberrin/Tammin
- Merredin
- Narrogin
- Southern Cross
- Westonia

As a host, we will ask you to provide accommodation for two or more students, be able to assist with transporting them to/from town, and share what it is like to live in your town with the students. You are invited to come along to a Thank You Dinner with the students on the Thursday night.

Why host?

Even if you need the students to roll out a swag in the living room, we want to hear from you if you can host.

This is a life-changing experience for the students, with many having no previous exposure to rural life or the Wheatbelt.

By providing these rural immersion opportunities early in their degree, it has been proven that students are more likely to explore rural career opportunities.

Some students, who have previously been hosted through this program, continue to keep in touch and visit their host families, some return to do seasonal work and placements, others have joined mentoring programs, some have inspired host family members to pursue tertiary studies in health and medicine, and some students are now doctors in the Wheatbelt and other parts of rural/remote WA and Australia.

For further information, contact **Rural Health West:**

T 08 6389 4567

E futureworkforce@ruralhealthwest.com.au



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Council Meeting Outcomes

Council met for its latest Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 19th October 2023. This was the last meeting before the 2023 Local Government Elections and the last meeting in charge for outgoing President Stephen Strange. Council addressed various matters at the Information Session and Ordinary Meeting. Below is a brief snapshot of some of the items addressed.

Draft Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2027

Following extensive community consultation earlier this year by Withers & Associates P/L Environmental Health Consultant, a draft Public Health and Wellbeing Plan was drafted, presented to staff for input and updates, and then presented to Council for consideration. The Plan has been written to place the Shire of Bruce Rock in a supportive role in the delivery of public health and wellbeing programs. The Shire is now seeking Public input to the Draft plan prior to final adoption by Council.

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Governance and Structure

The Bruce Rock Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) recently held its pre-summer meeting to review and address matters relating to fire safety, planning, prevention and action. This included a full review and update of Council's Bushfire Brigades and Governance Structure Policy, which included improved alignment for position appointments to the Local Government election cycle, updated minimum training requirements for Bushfire Brigade volunteers, and clarity around approval for Council staff / plant entering active fire grounds.

New Fire Control Officers Appointed

Council considered and endorsed the Bruce Rock Bush Fire Advisory Committee's recommendation for the following Fire Officer appointments for the next two years:

- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Cr Tony Crooks
- Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Trent Cosgrove
- Fire Control Officer - Stephen Dolton

Community Crop Lease Awarded

The Shire of Bruce Rock leases the cropping rights to the community for the land immediately surrounding the Airstrip. This is to assist local community groups to raise funds for their activities and provide benefit to the wider community. Council received three applications from community and sporting groups for the next lease term from 2024 - 2027, with the lease being awarded to the Bruce Rock Progress Association. The Progress Association has been actively working to raise funds for the new supermarket over the past few years, and will also now continue to raise funds for other projects that will benefit the community.

Roads Program Progressing

The annual winter grading maintenance program finished in early October, crews then moved onto the planned gravel sheeting and floodway repair program. The Manager of Works provided an overview of the planned road construction works for the remainder of the year, and works that are commencing on the airstrip upgrade, including reseal of the runway and new lighting system.

Council Meeting Outcomes

Playground Plans Reviewed

Following the final round of community consultation on the new adventure playground concept designs, Council reviewed the feedback and has identified some minor amendments and inclusions. The feedback provided has been handed back to the consultants, who will work on the final designs. Community updates will be provided as this project progresses.



Public Notice Amended Council Meeting Date

It is hereby notified for public information that in accordance with section 5.4(a) of the Local Government Act, that the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday 21 December 2023 be rescheduled to;

Thursday 14 December 2023
Commencing at 3.00pm
Shire of Bruce Rock Council Chambers
54 Johnson Street, Bruce Rock WA 6418

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