

Shire of Bruce Rock

# Newsletter

June 2024



Welcome



*Where friends become family*

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# CEO Report

The past month has been very busy with the works crews completing budgeted works before the end of financial year, the finance team have been working hard on the new budget and the admin team pushing through compliance requirements. Council have been putting in extra hours with the recruitment consultant in the search for a new CEO, as well as several Council delegates attending various regional meetings.

Below is a brief snapshot of recent activities and updates from the month of June. If you would like to know more information on other Council related matters please contact the CEO, President or one of the Shire Councillors.

## **Main Street Mural**

What an amazing outcome. Artist Bec Abdy has taken the feedback and data collected from our community consultation and has created a piece that not only depicts imagery specific to Bruce Rock but has actively contributed to the enhancement of our main street. We have received a large amount of positive feedback from locals and tourists, this will become a great attraction for many years to come.

## **Shackleton Gazebo and Bank Works**

Beautification works have been undertaken at the small bank and gazebo area in the Shackleton main street. Works included releveling and clean up of the entire block, removal of disused garden beds, installation of new path from the bank to gazebo and placement of old machinery and decorative wagon wheels to keep with the history theme of the main street. Maintenance on the small bank building external walls will be undertaken in the near future.

## **Acting CEO**

With my departure, Council has appointed Mr John Merrick as the Acting Chief Executive Officer, who will fill the position until a new CEO is appointed and can commence. John has many years of experience in Local Government and has undertaken relief work as CEO at many Wheatbelt Shires. Council is progressing through the recruitment process with the interview process underway.



*Darren Mollenoyux*

# CEO Report

## **Thank You and Farewell**

I take this opportunity to farewell the Shire and Community of Bruce Rock. The decision to resign at CEO was not an easy decision. I am very passionate about Bruce Rock and over the past fourteen years have dedicated myself to making every effort to make our Shire a better place, for all.

I leave Bruce Rock proud of what I have achieved, having delivered many projects that will benefit the community for years to come. Whilst the new Supermarket is an obvious highlight, there have been several projects over the years I have been proud of including, new housing, CEACA Aged Units, new chalets and ablutions to the caravan park, synthetic bowling greens, new hockey turf, sporting facility upgrades, main street revitalisation, creation of Remembrance Park and refurbishment of the amphitheatre. I also leave satisfied with the overall management and administration of the Shire, having driven significant change and improvement in governance and compliance as well as strategic planning with Council and community.

Whilst there is never a good time to leave, I feel that the Shire is in a strong position and we are not in the middle a significant project, this will allow the new CEO to come on board and take on the new Playground project and continue to move Bruce Rock forward to the next phase in line with Council directions.

It has been an absolute pleasure serving the Shire and I thank Councillors (past and present), staff and community members, especially those who I have undertaken significant work with, for all your support and allowing me to serve Bruce Rock to achieve the best outcomes for the Shire.

Finally, on behalf of Bec, Jordan, Darcy, Lily and myself I thank everyone who has welcomed us and made us feel like this is home for the past fourteen years. We leave with great memories, new friends and opportunities and I am sure we will still have continued engagement with many for many years to come.



*Darren Mollenoyux*

# Council Meeting Outcomes

At the June 2024 Councillor Information Session and Ordinary Council Meeting, Councillors addressed and considered various matters, including roads maintenance, governance, policy reviews, budgets and ratings for 2024/2025, town planning and staffing updates. Below are some of the recent matters addressed;

## **Works & Services Program Update**

Unfortunately lack of rain has seen only a small amount of maintenance grading undertaken, the road maintenance crew will continue to work to undertake works as rain permits. Works have commenced in Shackleton to improve the main street aesthetic. The garden crew have been busy maintaining our parks and gardens. Council received an update on the repairs and servicing of plant and equipment, a status update was also provided on trade-in and disposal of some major plant items.

## **Policy Reviews**

Council have recently endorsed several staffing policies and have begun consideration on a planning policy, Council have sought public comment.

## **Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion**

The new Community Development Officer, Shayna Campbell provided Council with an update on the planning for the 2024 Annual Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion. Marketing for this year's event has been focused on creating a strategic focus on involving these stakeholders, with the aim of harnessing the collective strength of the community in support of one of our town's biggest annual events. The primary marketing strategy is being tailored towards enticing a younger demographic of service men and women, utilising social media platforms and targeting our outreach efforts to amplify visibility and relevance.

## **Bus Tour**

Councillors went on a bus tour to view current and planned works including the new mural at the supermarket, new BBQ at the Amphitheatre, the ongoing works in Shackleton and the current upgrade of the depot staff room.

## **Staff Housing Asset Management**

Council recently reviewed current staff housing levels and housing condition reports, this has assisted in preparing a ten year, staff housing asset management plan. This will assist in adequate budgeting and future planning. The intention behind creating the staff housing asset management plan ensures that when we sell and build properties there is an adequate range in size variation and tenant occupancy.