

Shire of Bruce Rock

Newsletter

March/April 2024



Shire of
Bruce Rock

Where friends become family



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CEO Report

We are well on our way towards the middle of 2024 and already so much has been happening in the first few months of the year. The Town Hall has now held its first few events, with the Lads Lunch, Varley Strings and recent ANZAC Services all being held in the refreshed Town Hall. We have also had several staff changes, and I have made the difficult decision to tender my notice of resignation. I will be finishing at the end of June 2024.

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

Town Hall

Following three and a half years of service as our temporary supermarket, it is great to see the Shire Hall open for business after being hired for several community events already. The Lads Lunch was the first event held, which was a great afternoon and evening put together by Suzanne Hodgkiss and her band of helpers. This was followed a few weeks later by the Varley Strings event hosted by the Bruce Rock Progress Association to thank and recognise the community for their efforts and support of the past couple of years. Most recently, it was great to see the ANZAC Day service back in the hall with a fantastic turnout. The Shire Hall certainly looks great and each of these events have put their unique spin on decorating the Hall, highlighting the versatility of the venue. If you wish to book the Hall for an upcoming event, please contact the Shire Office.

Meet the Team

Our first “Meet the Team” morning tea was held in April. Those who attended were given an update on our Main Street Revitalisation, new adventure playground and an overview of what our finance and governance teams are working on. Please keep an eye out for the next event. We hope to see you there.

Commitment to Safety

As part of the Shire’s ongoing commitment to safety, we recently held two days of training for all staff to undertake their First Aid Certificate. The training was run through the local St John Ambulance at the emergency services building, with all staff successfully completing the training. Having a large portion of our staff trained in first aid ensures we have a team that are trained to handle any initial first aid in workplace incidents. It also provides staff with first aid skills to use at home and in the community when required.



Darren Mollenoyux

CEO Report

War Memorial and Remembrance Park Tree

Sadly, an assessment made by a professional arborist confirmed the suspected white ant infestation of one of the trees at Remembrance Park. In the interest of ensuring our community's safety, the decision was made to remove the tree. As part of our commitment to keeping our streets green and vibrant, our gardening crew will be looking for a suitable replacement for the tree.

Thank you for your understanding.



Community Development Officer

With the recent departure of Caris Negri, we have completed the recruitment process for a new Community Development Officer. I am pleased to formally announce that Shayna Campbell has been successful in filling the role. Shayna comes with experience in Local Government, as well as a vast background in community engagement and other skills and experience that make her a great fit for the position. We look forward to Shayna taking on this role and working with the community.

Manager of Works and Services

We have completed advertising for the new Manager of Works and Services, and will now commence the interview process. We are working towards making an appointment in the very near future.



Darren Mollenoyux

Update from the CDO

Medical Student Immersion Program

In March, Bruce Rock welcomed first year medical students from Notre Dame. The students were housed by local families and experienced life in a small regional community as part of an immersion program that is a partnership between Notre Dame, WEROC and Rural Health West. The immersion program aims to address the state wide regional doctor shortage, as studies have shown a link between willingness to work in a rural area and early exposure to rural medicine.

To everyone who gave up their time to introduce the medical students to life in a rural area, and especially to the host families who opened their homes: thank you!



ANZAC Day

During the month of April, the Shire hosted the annual ANZAC day service. The service was well attended by the community, with an estimate of roughly 130 attendees. The service formalities were hosted in the Shire Hall, including a poignant visual display at the conclusion of the service. It is greatly encouraging to see the Hall return to its former glory and comfortably house the community. We look forward to utilising this facility more going forward.

To hire the Hall for private or public events contact the Shire of Bruce Rock on 90611377 or email admin@brucerock.wa.gov.au.



Update from the CDO

Visitors to Bruce Rock

Over the months of March and April, we have seen a steady uptick of visitors to our quaint little town, some of who have left some raving reviews and feedback. At the Shire of Bruce Rock we are dedicated to continued improvement and the provision of quality services and facilities in our town. As such we have a comprehensive feedback process for visitors to let us know what they think of our town and its facilities. These feedback forms are regularly reviewed and the data is collated to identify areas for improvement and maintain areas of excellence. Here are some of the most recent comments on our caravan park from recent visitors.

VISITOR FEEDBACK



First time visitor ★★★★★

The staff are fantastic, very helpful. The facilities are always spotless, very quiet and well looked after.



First time visitor ★★★★★

The caretaker was super helpful and informative- i felt encouraged to stay longer!



Return visitor ★★★★★

I have visited 4 times. Bruce Rock has the best swimming pool in WA and the sports club. The chalets are always well presented



First time visitor ★★★★★

Perfect for what I needed, thanks guys!



Council Meeting Outcomes

Council has had a busy couple of months addressing strategic, planning and community initiatives at Council and Committee meetings. Below are some of the recent matters addressed.

Recruitment of New CEO

During the month, Council held a Special Meeting of Council to accept the resignation of Darren Mollenoyux as Chief Executive Officer, who will be leaving on the 28th June 2024, and to formalise the process for the recruitment of a new CEO. Under legislation, Council is required to appoint a HR Consultant, a CEO Selection Panel, and an appropriately skilled independent panel member and formally endorse the position description. Council has appointed recruiting specialists Beilby Downing Teal to undertake, and guide Council through, the recruitment process. Mr Quentin Davies, recently retired Shire President from Shire of Wyalkatchem has been appointed as the independent member of the selection panel. All seven Councillors will also sit on the selection panel. Council is currently working with the consultant to commence the recruiting process, which is anticipated to take approximately ten weeks.

Works and Services Program Update

Council received an update on the progress of the 2023/2024 road construction program, with all major construction works now complete. The crews are now undertaking minor maintenance works and preparing for the winter maintenance grading program to start once it rains. The final section of the current footpath program is nearing completion on Leever's Street, with minor footpath maintenance now being undertaken. The gardeners have been busy around town and in the outlying townsites. The Recreation Centre Manager has also been preparing the oval in readiness for winter sports.

Finance Matters

Council undertook the 2023/24 budget review in March 2024 and has commenced considering items and planning for the 2024/25 budget deliberations. Several new fees and charges were introduced over the past couple of months. These were in relation to new commercial rentals, which have seen an increase in use.

Council Meeting Outcomes

Hockey Turf Viewing Area

Council held an onsite meeting with the President of the Bruce Rock Hockey Club to inspect the recently completed tiered viewing area and retaining wall. Council was pleased to see the progress made. The Hockey Club President then presented the plans for the next stage of the viewing area with the proposed undercover structure concepts. These plans will be finalised before progressing to the next stage.

Standardised Meeting Procedures

The State Government is implementing a number of reforms to the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) to improve transparency and accountability in local government in Western Australia, and to deliver benefits to ratepayers and residents. Standardising Council and committee procedures is part of these reforms. Establishing a consistent approach to all local government Council and committee meetings will make it easier and simpler for people to participate in and observe Council meetings, wherever they are held. Establishing one standard is expected to simplify and improve training for Council members and local government staff. Council considered the proposed standard meeting procedures and supported the majority of the proposed procedures, with a submission being provided to the Department of Local Government and the WA Local Government Association.