

Shire of Bruce Rock

Newsletter

May 2024



Shire of
Bruce Rock

Where friends become family



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CEO Report

The end of the financial year is nearly upon us, with most budgeted capital projects and works completed. Alike our budding farmers, the works crews are awaiting rain to commence our annual gravel road maintenance program.

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

Another Huge Contribution

The Bruce Rock Progress Association has made its final contribution towards the construction of the Bruce Rock Supermarket. The Progress Association has contributed a total of \$500,000 toward this generational community project.

Council would like to recognise the remarkable demonstration of commitment to this valuable project shown by the Progress Association. Council values the pivotal role the Progress Association has played in raising these funds and in bringing the community together to ensure the construction of the new building.

Aquatic Centre Upgrade

Council has been successful in the receipt of grant funding to undertake upgrades on the large aquatic centre pool lining. The new pool lining will provide infrastructural durability and ensure water efficiency.

Manager of Works and Services

I am pleased to announce that Mr Greg Stephens has been appointed the position of Manager of Works. Mr Stephens comes with extensive experience in the Local Government industry and a high level of knowledge and skills in the field of works and services. We look forward to Greg's commencement on the 1st July 2024.

Long Service Recognised

During the month of May, several dedicated members of our Works Crews reached significant milestones in their service with the Shire of Bruce Rock. We would like to congratulate and recognise the commitment to service shown by Des Houston, Clint Houston, Brock Williams, Brian Braddock, Jack Andrews and Trevor Smith.



Finance Update *Manisha Barthakur*

From the Manager of Finance

As the new budget season rolls around, the finance team are knee-deep in numbers and planning. In keeping with the strategic community plan and long-term financial plan, capital and major projects are in planning phase. Each decision made is viewed through the lens of long-term fiscal responsibility by the Council. The team weigh the potential impact on the community against the available resources, with the goal of keeping the town's finances in check and ensuring the continuation of projects for construction and improvement.

The finance team is a multi-faceted group and while budget considerations are being made, the team are simultaneously bracing themselves for the upcoming whirlwind of annual reporting and auditing. As we enter the busiest period of the year, our meticulous attention to detail becomes paramount. As a team, we are dedicated to ensuring that every transaction is accounted for, and every dollar is justified.

Update from the CDO

Directional Signage Installation

The recent installation of directional signage at Bruce's Rock represents a pivotal response to invaluable feedback from tourists, addressing concerns regarding accessibility to this iconic landmark. Through meticulous planning and collaboration, the signage now serves as a beacon, guiding travellers with clarity and precision to Bruce's Rock. This strategic enhancement not only facilitates smoother navigation, but also fosters a more enriching visitor experience, ensuring that the natural beauty and historical significance of Bruce's Rock are readily accessible to all who seek it. Such proactive measures underscore our commitment to enhancing tourism infrastructure and promoting the cultural heritage of our region, laying the foundation for continued engagement and exploration in the years ahead.



Shayna Campbell

Update from the CDO

Mural Progress

The culmination of the mural project at the Bruce Rock Supermarket, meticulously executed by artist Bec Abdy, marks a significant milestone for our community. Bec's exceptional talent and dedication have transformed the exterior of our new supermarket into a captivating visual narrative that enriches our town's cultural landscape. Through her artistry, Bec has seamlessly integrated elements of local heritage and contemporary expression, to create a lasting piece that resonates with residents and visitors alike. We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Bec for her remarkable contribution, and eagerly anticipate the continued inspiration and dialogue this mural will generate. Below I have included a description of the piece's symbolism, as written by artist Bec Abdy.

I'm thrilled to introduce my design concept for Bruce Rock's Supermarket. This iconic mural not only aligns with the project brief but also delves into artistic expression and community connection on a deeper level. The design centres on farming and the natural environment, paying homage to the town's identity and catering to the interests of both locals and tourists. The background portrays the natural colour palette of rural Western Australia, with shades of blue and pastel clouds reminiscent of sunrise and sunset.

Native flora, including Pink Pokers, Lemon Scented Sun Orchids, and Fairy Orchids endemic to Bruce Rock, adorn the scene. Celebrating the town's farming industry, the mural features sheep and wheat, with a focus on highlighting the intricate beauty of WA's vital agricultural sector. Incorporating the iconic Magpie, the town's sporting mascot, perched on the farmer's shoulder symbolises the connection between farmers and the land. The farmer himself embodies soulfulness, aiming to forge a deeper connection with viewers and offer recognition to the pivotal role of farmers in our society. The sunlight shining upon the farmer underscores the importance of light in growth, both in agriculture and within ourselves.

Within the farmer's heart space, a depiction of a grandfather and a girl working together to plant seeds for the future symbolises the significance of family, community, and growth, both personal and environmental. This mural honours the tradition of rural murals while infusing it with a unique and distinctive style, creating a truly special piece for Bruce Rock.

- Bec Abdy



Shayna Campbell

Council Meeting Outcomes

At the May 2024 Councillor Information Session and Ordinary Council Meeting, Councillors addressed and considered various matters of works, governance, finance, budget planning for 2024/2025 and fire control. Below are some of the matters addressed.

Recruitment of New CEO

Council has been working closely with recruiting specialists Beilby Downing Teal to appoint a new Chief Executive Officer. With advertising underway, it is expected that a shortlist of applicants will be determined in early June 2024 and interviews held mid June 2024. Further updates on the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer will be announced when a decision is finalised. An acting Chief Executive Officer will be appointed in the interim until the new one commences.

Works and Services Program Update

An update was provided on the finalisation of the 2023/2024 road construction program having been completed in April 2024. Unfortunately, lack of rain has seen only a small amount of maintenance grading undertaken. Once adequate rains are received, the road maintenance crew will recommence works. Planning and costings have been undertaken for the roads, works, plant replacement and services area for consideration in the 2024/2025 budget deliberations.

Variation to Fire Behaviour Index

Council endorsed a proposal from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee to increase the Fire Behaviour Index threshold used to determine a harvest ban from 37 to 40. This is in line with the threshold applied by many other neighbouring local governments.

Bus Tour

Councillors went on a bus tour to view current and planned works, including the new mural, the replacement liner at the Aquatic Centre, new footpaths on Leever's Street, the hockey turf viewing area and the BBQ area at the recreation centre.

Regional Meetings

Council delegates and the CEO attended various regional meetings over the month of May. Council has been provided updates from the following groups and organisations: CEACA, ROE Tourism, WEROC, WALGA Great Eastern Zone and Wheatbelt Futures Forum. The purpose of these regional meetings is to ensure that Bruce Rock is well connected and aware of opportunities for future development, as well as assisting in regional collaboration with our neighbouring Shires.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Governance and Grants Officer



- **Excellent work-life balance, working three days a week.**
- **Attractive remuneration of between \$29.07 and \$32.36 per hour, plus the Shire's 5% over Award payment.**
- **Generous superannuation contributions.**
- **On the job training opportunities.**

The opportunity

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic person to fill the role of Governance and Grants Officer. Ideally, the applicant will be a self-motivated person, who will work under the supervision of the Manager of Governance and Community Services to assist in managing the Shire's governance and compliance requirements, review and develop Council's administrative policies and procedures, and identify, attract and manage grant funding to support the operation of the Shire and the delivery of services to the community.

Required knowledge and skills

- Sound written and verbal communication skills.
- Sound critical thinking skills.
- Sound public relations skills.
- Well developed time management skills.
- Working knowledge of Windows based applications.
- Ability to read and interpret legislation, working knowledge of the local community and district, understanding of grant processes and procedures, and basic understanding of Local Government are desirable.

Employment conditions

- Permanent appointment upon completion of a three-month probation period.
- Conditions in accordance with the Local Government Officers (Western Australia) Award, Level 4 or Level 5 (depending on experience), plus 5% over Award allowance.
- Generous superannuation options (11% on commencement, plus employee contributions matched by the Shire up to 6%).
- Rostered Days Off accrued on a pro-rata basis.

How to apply

Please provide a written application, including a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role, plus a CV detailing your work history and providing two recent work-related referees. Please mark your application as follows: "Governance and Grants Officer".

You can post, personally deliver or email your application to:

Post

Shire of Bruce Rock
PO Box 113
BRUCE ROCK WA 6418

In person

Shire of Bruce Rock
54 Johnson Street
BRUCE ROCK WA 6418

Email

shenae.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au

Applications close at 4.00pm on Tuesday, 18 June 2024.

Application package and more information

An application package and more information can be obtained at the Shire's website (www.brucerock.wa.gov.au) or by contacting Shenae Negri (on 9061 1377 or shenae.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au).