

# SHIRE MATTERS



SHIRE OF  
**DANDARAGAN**

Issue 138 - August 2020

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## CALL THE FREE EPILEPSY HELPLINE

Available in all Australian states and territories

**EPILEPSY NURSE LINE**  
Available from 9am to 5pm seven days a week  
**1300 37 45 37**

Do you have epilepsy or experience seizures? Are you feeling isolated, need advice about your medications, or just want to chat?

Call or email the EPILEPSY NURSE LINE. It is available 9am to 5pm, seven days per week.

Each call will be answered immediately by a Registered Nurse with special training in epilepsy management. You can trust that the information you receive will be accurate and safe.

If you prefer to email, you will receive a response within 24 hours.

The service is proudly provided by Epilepsy Action Australia, with the financial assistance of the Australian Department of Health.

FREE EPILEPSY NURSE LINE – 1300 EPILEPSY  
(1300 37 45 37) OR [epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au](mailto:epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au)

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Leslee Holmes  
Ph. 0408 419 468

## Family

Each month as I write these reports I hope to be able to give everyone good news, as well as hope of the world returning to a better place than what we see each day through news reports however, as there are always people who will not do as they are told we continue to see increases of this dreadful pandemic in other states. We are fortunate to be safe because we listened, took instructions and took it seriously, and we can commend our government for standing firm on continuing to keep our borders closed. I can assure you we are the envy of the rest of the world.

Like many of you I have family all over the world that we keep in constant contact with. My 91 year old mum went out for the first time in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, in the UK this week and she was so excited that she called me to let me know how wonderful it felt to be able to walk through the lovely gardens again. A great comment was that we all need to start living for every day and with appreciation for everything we have. I wonder every day if I will ever see her again. As sad as that thought can be, I am grateful for all the ways that we can communicate and have regular family hook ups with them all.

My grandchildren are in awe as they have not seen Mum for so many years and now can be part of her weekly life. I can recommend staying in touch this way and, if you get the times right, is very rewarding.

## Budget 2020

At our July Council Meeting last week Council adopted its new annual budget. This is always an exciting time as it allows us to commence the delivery of a vast number of projects within our communities for the year. An overview of key projects in this year's budget is contained within this newsletter.

## Digital Farms

Recently I visited Geraldton for the launch of the Digital Farm Grants Program. This program is a State Government initiative to improve digital connectivity in regional Western Australia. It was first made available in 2018 through a \$5 million funding round. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is currently working with recipients of the 2018 funding round to support the widespread adoption of digital farm technologies.

The Dandaragan Shire has now been included in the next funding program which will enable our region to access high-speed fixed wireless NBN.

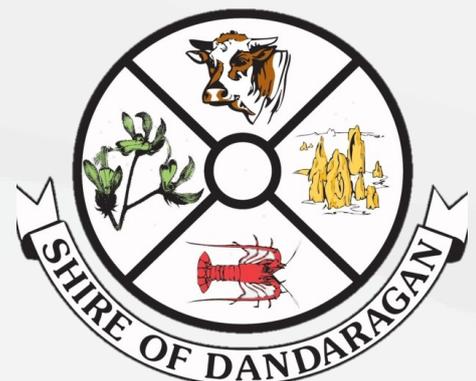
## Tourism and Intrastate Travel

With the rules about interstate and overseas travel staying in place we have noticed a marked increase in people holidaying in their own state.

This has been a great advantage to our Shire with caravan parks full and local businesses enjoying increased activity.

There are absolutely no caravan sites in Exmouth and limited ones available in Shark Bay/Monkey Mia. I urge people to make sure they book if they want to go north to avoid disappointment. The Kalbarri Skywalk has attracted huge crowds and hopefully will encourage growth in the town that has been dwindling in numbers over the past years. I cannot see us opening our borders for some time to come so let's enjoy showing our visitors what a wonderful part of the world we live in. I have never known a more beautiful winter on the coast and it is encouraging to see so many families out and about enjoying a winter holiday. Our visitor centre has been encouraging tourists to go to Badgingarra and Dandaragan as they are at their best at this time of the year and the wildflowers are starting to come through.

As we become busier and busier, looking after our towns becomes more and more important. We are all so fortunate to live in this wonderful part of the world and we all need to help to look after it however, one of the problems of being busy is that we have many people on unlicensed motor bikes and quad bikes racing around the coastal towns. This is dangerous and illegal. The drivers seem to be younger and younger and are not taking any notice of signs or footpaths.



It is essential that the public understand that driving on the road is a policing issue and we all need to let them know when this is happening to avoid accidents which will not enhance the safe reputation of our towns. Our Rangers are out and about keeping them off the beaches (where possible) but it takes a concerted effort by all of us to bring this under control. We have a fantastic Motocross Club established in Jurien Bay which is the appropriate location for these activities.

On another note, the amount of people on the roads is increasing daily and we need to take great care when driving. Make sure you are not using mobile phones while driving as this a very dangerous exercise and not to mention expensive, particularly with the State Government introducing new penalties for such offences coming into force as from 1 September 2020.

Let's hope, when we are able to travel across the nation again, that people will still come this way for their holidays. We need to make sure that we are friendly and welcoming to our visitors if we want them to keep coming back. We don't have the backpackers who are very well trained in hospitality and are now relying on locals who are skilling up to fill those jobs. The Shire, together with our local Chambers of Commerce, are hoping to bring in some training courses soon to help businesses with specific hospitality training needs for the future.

### **Coastal Inundation**

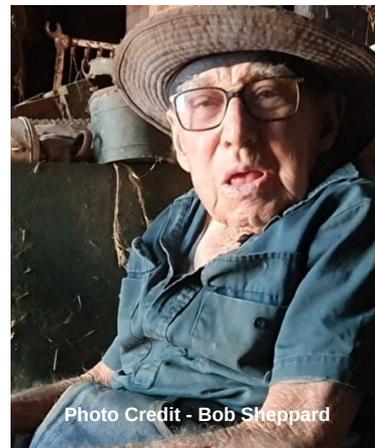
With the very strong tides and fierce weather that we have had, the damage to the primary dunes in both coastal towns is very worrying. We must encourage people to keep off the dunes and allow them to re-vegetate and offer us protection from the next weather event. The Shire has completed some small scale interim dune reinstatement in both coastal towns and will continue to monitor erosion and inundation for public safety.

### **Justices of the Peace**

I was fortunate to host a lunch for the District of Moora JP's (Justices of the Peace) recently. The Chief Magistrate has announced that JP's will no longer oversee court hearings in Western Australia. This announcement closes a long chapter of JP's hearing criminal matters in WA, particularly in rural and remote parts of the State where a magistrate was not available. Such matters will now be heard by various magistrates who thanks to technology can be present in any court across the State.

### **RIP Noel Grigson**

We were saddened to hear about the passing of Mr Noel Grigson from Cockleshell Gully. Mr Grigson and his family were pioneers of the district. Recently officers and I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr Grigson for the North Head Radar Station History documentary out at the family homestead and it will be a bittersweet time when the documentary is released. Condolences to John, Bev, Shelley and family.



### **More Public Art**

Finally, well done to Kiera Wullemin for the wonderful piece of art at the Cervantes Community Recreation Centre. Make sure you go down and have a look at this amazing work which will certainly cause a lot of interest in a very arty community. Cervantes has all sorts of very interesting work in their art trail and this will certainly add to it.





## **ADMINISTRATION / LIBRARY & VISITORS CENTRE OPENING HOURS**

Current opening hours to the walk-in public for the Shire of Dandaragan Administration Centre / Library & Visitors Centre are Monday - Friday from 9am - 4pm. If you would like to meet with a staff member outside of these opening hours, please call or email to make an appointment.

## **NOTICE OF ROADWORKS**

### **JURIEN EAST ROAD – 12 -AUGUST 2020 – MID-NOVEMBER 2020**

The Shire of Dandaragan would like to take this opportunity to advise the community of planned road works along Jurien East Road, between Banovich Road and Munbinea Road, commencing on Wednesday, 12 August 2020.

This \$2.2M project is being completed by the Shire's civil works team and local contractors and is anticipated to take 13 weeks. Works are due to be completed by mid-November 2020.

Banovich Road will be used as a haul route for gravel for the duration of these works and all traffic is asked to avoid this area wherever possible

Suitable traffic management will be in place throughout the duration of the road works and road users are asked to take care when travelling in this vicinity.

This project forms part of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network's (WSFN), Jurien to Dalwallinu route, with the Shire of Dandaragan partnering with both Federal and State Governments to deliver these works within the 2020/2021 financial year.

For further information about these works please contact the Shire's Executive Manager Infrastructure on (08) 9652 0800.





## **DEVELOPMENT WA (FORMERLY LANDCORP) POST COVID19 STIMULUS MEASURE, THE REGIONAL LAND BOOSTER PACKAGE**

Delivering more affordable land in the Wheatbelt region is expected to stimulate the local building and construction sector, driving business investment and creating local jobs.

Development WA has reduced the price of development ready land in Cervantes and Badgingarra.

Single residential lot prices in Cervantes now start from \$105,000, saving land buyers up to \$42,900.

Cervantes multi-residential lot now priced at \$595,000 saving \$145,900

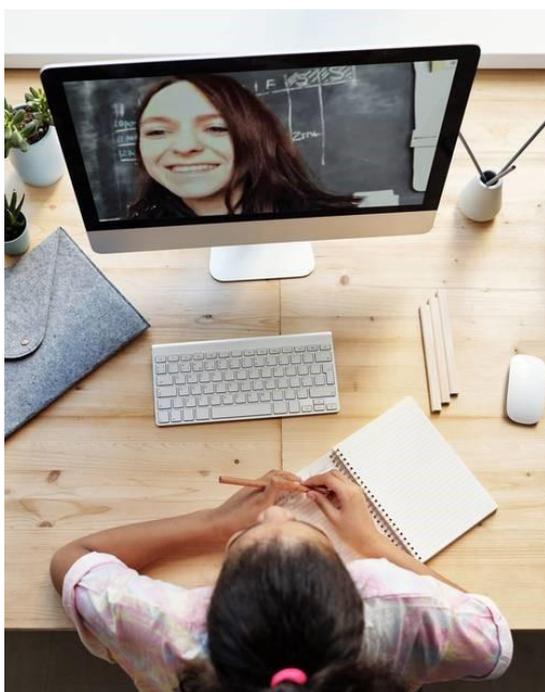
DevelopmentWA has lowered the selling price of its lots in Badgingarra down to \$25,000.

The Regional Land Booster comes in addition to the State Government's \$20,000 Building Bonus Grant and the Commonwealth Government's HomeBuilder grant.

Eligible land buyers will be able to take advantage of up to \$69,000 in State and Commonwealth building and homeownership grants.

New Sales Release Flyers are being prepared and the new prices are being loaded onto DevelopmentWA's web page for the Cervantes and Badgingarra projects.

## **WA'S YOUNG RESIDENTS GIVE THEIR PERSPECTIVE ON COVID-19**



Although WA is faring well with mitigating the spread of COVID-19, it has been a challenging experience for most.

In recognition of the gravity of the pandemic, the Commissioner for Children and Young People issued an open invitation for young people across metropolitan, regional and remote areas of WA to write in and share their experiences.

Over 800 responses were received during March-June 2020, including comments from young people in contact with the justice system, living in care and remote Aboriginal communities.

Click on the link below to read the report 'COVID-19 as told by WA children and young people' including comments from young people in the Shire of Dandaragan.

<https://www.ccp.wa.gov.au/news/covid-19-as-told-by-wa-children-and-young-people/>



## SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED THE \$20.3M 2020/21 ANNUAL BUDGET BASED ON A 0% RATE INCREASE

This budget has been put together in response to COVID-19, with a capital investment program of almost \$12m, more than double the previous year. Taking advantage of new grants, loans and reserve funding utilisation we will be embarking on an ambitious infrastructure program that will prioritise transformational investments for economic, environmental and liveability improvements.

Major projects across the next 12 months include \$3m for Jurien Bay Foreshore Redevelopment including Ablutions, Pavilion, Skate Park, Playground, Landscaping and Streetscaping; \$730k towards a new East West runway and Taxiways at Jurien Bay Airstrip; \$125k for the upgrade and sealing of Hansen Bay Road; \$175K for the Dandaragan Streetscape Upgrade, Public Art and BMX Park; and \$260k towards a RAV4 compliant truck access bay and landscaping upgrades in Badgingarra.

The Shire will deliver these projects through responsible loan borrowings of \$1.3m during a period of low interest rates, combined with the Shire's cash reserves.

Other highlights include:

- Badgingarra cricket nets
- Refurbishment of Jurien Bay Library & Turquoise Coast Visitor Centre
- Contribution towards new generator for Jurien Bay General Practice
- Creation and installation of new Shire entry signs
- Construction of Government Regional Officer Housing for Dandaragan Primary School
- Gravel re-sheeting, reconstruction and resealing of a number of regional roads across the Shire
- Development and implementation of Shire 'destination marketing' program.

## SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN 2020/21 RATE NOTICES

The Shire of Dandaragan rate notices will be issued on 7 August 2020 with payment due by 5.00pm on Friday 11 September 2020.

Any rates paid after this date will miss out on the opportunity to access the 5% discount.

If you have not received your notice by 24 August 2020, please contact the Shire as soon as possible on [rates@dandaragan.wa.gov.au](mailto:rates@dandaragan.wa.gov.au) or 9652 0800

More information can be found on the Shire website <https://www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au/your-shire/rates>



## JURIEN BAY HERBARIUM NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY DAY

After six busy months of planting and nurturing native seedlings, members of Jurien Bay Herbarium Group loaded a trailer and ute to the brim, in anticipation of a huge crowd. This year's Native Plant Giveaway Day was delivered as a drive through experience, as a way of overcoming COVID-19 restrictions.

The whole of Fauntleroy carpark was utilised as the drive through. The method functioned smoothly and complied with COVID-19 restrictions at that time. Drivers were appreciative of the convenience and once the line started, traffic flowed accordingly with minimal holdups. Group members were busy collecting order sheets and safely passing seedling through windows or placing them into car boots to address the physical distancing challenges.

Approximately 540 seedlings were given out to Shire of Dandaragan residents. 6 seedlings per household were being passed out to 70 residents during the giveaway and a further 20 residents collected seedlings at other times. A special load of Mallee seedlings were donated to very appreciative landowners just north of Jurien Bay, as a contribution towards their revegetation project.

Although the car flow was effective and efficient, the Herbarium Group felt there was no time to discuss specific plant growing questions or render relevant information. They are now looking at ways to incorporate an information sheet into next year's event, as they believe the "Drive Through" way is here to stay.



## SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN ON FACEBOOK

The Shire of Dandaragan is using Social Media as a platform to connect with the public and promote our regional assets to potential investors and visitors.

Like us on Facebook for local events, promotion or information. Interact with other community members and Councillors. Stay informed with Shire specific information and environmental warnings. Share your photos and experiences within our Shire.

