SHIRE MATTERS

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SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN

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Prohibited Burning Time

NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS AND OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND WITHIN THE SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN – PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

Please be advised, from the 1 November 2020 until the 28 February 2021 inclusive the Shire of Dandaragan will be in the prohibited burning period. Permits to burn will not be issued, no campfires are allowed unless in compliance with the Shire's Camping & Cooking Fires Policy, which can be found on the Shire's website:

Fire prevention saves lives, reduces damage to property, livestock, crops and protects the environment. Reducing fire hazards is the responsibility of each and every one of us. It is not difficult, but to be effective, everyone has to help. Following simple guidelines as outlined above and in Fire Break & Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2020 / 2021 brochure may help protect your family, property and the community from the devastation of fire.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cr Leslee Holmes
Ph. 0408 419 468

A COVID WORLD

Greetings to all the good souls who read this report every month. I really enjoy corresponding this way and even though it is not handwritten I always feel that it's like writing a letter to a close friend. My family have mixed blessings around the world with the UK in full lockdown again. My Mum, who really only goes to the local shops, with a mercy dash to the bottle shop, has not really taken too much notice and goes about her life without much changing but at 91 that's okay. My daughter and grandchildren in Melbourne are now able to get out and about again and I am sure it is a great relief for them to at last be able to do the simple things we all take for granted over here.

I know too that you will all be happy to hear of the imminent vaccine to help us to live with the dreadful COVID-19. This will be a game changer for the whole world and will mean we will finally be able to live with this dreadful virus and structure our lives differently for the coming years when I am sure there will be other pandemics. The touching scenes at the airport yesterday made us all realise just how lucky we have been here in our WA bubble.

At this time of the year our hearts go out to all those who will be unable to spend Christmas with family.

II too am among this unhappy group but thankfully with video conferencing on our smart-phones/devices we can still all see each other on the big day.

SHIRE WORKINGS

So much is going on in the Shire of Dandaragan at the moment with Councillors and staff all working extremely hard to deliver on our Vision. Our Shire is moving at a rapid rate with so much interest in investing in our towns. We are very fortunate to have the opportunities that are coming our way and lucky to have staff who can deal with development at a high level.

Council recently received an update the WA Dairy and Energy proponents about their herd development program and plans for construction once final approvals are received from the State Government's various agencies. The Department of Transport's Expression of Interest process has also closed for the land south of the Jurien Bay Marina and we are looking forward to hearing about the submissions received in due course. I'm also really pleased to see the broader building and construction sector so busy with many new homes and renovations underway. This is a vital sector in our community that supports many local businesses, families and apprenticeships.

Our Civil Works team are currently constructing one of the largest road projects the Shire has ever taken on at Jurien East Road. With funding from the Federal and State Government through the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network, our project will be one of the first completed in the Wheatbelt. Once complete the team will be supporting local contractors to upgrade the road to Lake Thetis and Sandy Cape before recommencing major reconstruction works on Cataby Road.

The Shire's administration has recently had its twice yearly audit completed and I am happy to report that it went extremely well. I must congratulate our Corporate Services team for keeping us on the right track with our financials. This is much more complicated than in the past, with particularly rigid checks and asset management now a considerable focus to ensure we plan on having enough funding available to renew or rebuild our community assets in the future.

JURIEN BAY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Recently I attended the Jurien Bay Community Resource Centre's (CRC) Annual General Meeting (AGM), where I am the Shire Representative on the Board. We had a very successful AGM and a great Board voted in, with Claire Scharf once again appointed as Chairperson. Well done to all those who put their hands up as this is a very important service to our towns. Congratulations to CRC Manager, Sue Campbell, who goes above and beyond her role in steering the ship. Sue is constantly out there looking for new projects to get the CRC involved in for the benefit of the community and the Shire of Dandaragan look forward to continuing a good working relationship with the CRC. The Board were extremely sad to be saying goodbye to Lester Marsden and took this opportunity to thank Lester for the wonderful job he has done during his time on the Board.

His dedication and commitment to his role, and his love for his community, will be sadly missed and we wish both Lester and his wife, Sue, well in their new life down south.

WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Recently Jurien Bay welcomed the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) to town. As Vice Chairperson of the Commission I am always pleased when we are able to host groups like this that play an important part in our future. We had a very successful meeting and like most groups they were very impressed with everything that is going on in the region and how progressive our Shire is. WDC plays a significant advocacy role with all levels of government and is a direct conduit to State Government Ministers. My colleagues tell me that we are the envy of most of the 42 Wheatbelt local governments.

AUSTRALIA'S CORAL COAST

Towards the end of October our Shire also hosted the Australia's Coral Coast AGM and a Tourism Strategy Workshop. This was held in Jurien Bay with a sundowner at the Lobster Shack. Once again this was a tremendous opportunity to showcase our region and social media was flooded with terrific photos of yet another stunning Cervantes sunset. I was honoured to Chair the round table discussion of tourism operators with attendees visiting from up and down the Coral Coast who joined in the conversation. The group from Geraldton, Mingenew, Carnamah, Coorow, Three Springs, Exmouth, Jurien Bay and Cervantes investigated ways of working together to expand visitation to our region.

2020 NAIDOC WEEK

Last week it was my pleasure to attend the NAIDOC Week Celebration in Jurien Bay. Even though the weather proved to be challenging, which meant we had to relocate to inside the Visitors Centre, we managed to have a beautiful morning. Our Community Development team organised a truly great event and we were treated to a Smoking Ceremony and Cultural Presentation by local KMAC Yued Aboriginal Rangers. Annie Shaw delivered an interesting presentation to attendees who were most appreciative. The Shire of Dandaragan are proud to partner and encourage Indigenous Australians in our Shire to create local businesses, especially in the tourism sector. We recognise that overseas visitors are seeking authenticity in their experiences while travelling and Australia has reached the point that we all need to be inclusive of everyone and not just talk about it. ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Recently, the Regional Executive Director of the Midwest Education Region announced the 2020 Midwest Public School Award recipients recognising excellence in education across the 47 Midwest public schools. Included within the recipients were four teachers from each of our schools within our Shire and I would like to take this opportunity to personally acknowledge these achievements and extend my congratulations to these four recipients as follows:
Gina Kenny – Badgingarra Primary School
Megan Knowles – Cervantes Primary School
Ingrid McCuish – Dandaragan Primary School
Glen Auzins – Jurien Bay District High School

NAMBUNG COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER

Into its fourth year, the Nambung Country Music Muster was held at the end of October and once again proved to be a great success with West Australian's travelling from all over the State to attend. How fortunate for organisers that COVID restrictions had been lifted in order to be able to host the event this year after so many events had to be cancelled at the peak of the pandemic. It is a fantastic drawcard to our region and we look forward to many more musters to come.

FAMILY BUSINESS

My youngest son is about to embark on opening a new business in a couple of weeks and that is keeping us all extra busy. Matthew is opening a mens and ladies fashion boutique in Claremont. This is a brave move but as they say "fortune favours the brave" and we wish him every success. Our Christmas will involve lots of work which will make missing everyone a bit easier, although Peter and I have been told to keep in the background as we are not "hip" enough and may put the customers off!

FIRE WEATHER ZONES

At the Shire's Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting earlier this year, it was confirmed that the Shire would reintroduce 4 fire weather zones for the next fire season.

Fire weather zones are a way of separating the Shire into four weather zones for the purpose of implementing Harvest and Total Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB), which are the responsibility of Local Government.

Harvest and Total Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) are implemented when weather conditions result in the Grassland Fire Danger Index reaching 35 or above. The Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) represents how difficult a fire could be to control and is based on temperature, relative humidity, curing rate and wind speed. When the GFDI reaches these levels the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery in paddocks, crops and bushland presents significant bushfire risk.

In recent years the Shire has not used multiple fire weather zones when implementing HVMB and has used a blanket approach of implementing the HVMB across the entire Shire.

Shire has been effective from an implementation perspective but has created some operational problems. Of particular concern has been the widely varying weather conditions across the Shire at any given point in time. Given the Shire covers in excess of 6000 square kilometres, weather conditions in the north eastern quadrant of the Shire may be severe and easily reaching the GFDI threshold of 35 or above requiring the implementation of a Total Vehicle Movement and Harvest Ban, while in the South East quadrant the weather conditions may be quite mild and not reaching the GFDI threshold required for a HVMB. Under the current single weather zone system when any area of the Shire reaches the threshold the entire Shire is placed under ban. The single zone system has therefore been an effective tool in managing the fire risk but has also impeded parts of the Shire operationally, particularly during the harvest period.

The implementation of 4 distinct Fire Weather Zones in the Shire will allow the implementation of a HVMB in an individual zone, in multiple zones, or all zones dependent on the weather being experienced in each zone. This will deliver greater flexibility and allow harvesting operations to continue in zones that are not experiencing severe weather.

The break-up of the zones is now:

Northwest Zone
Southwest Zone
Northeast Zone
Southeast Zone

Each zone will have a Fire Weather Officer appointed who will liaise with the Chief Bushfire Control Officer and the Shires Emergency Management Coordinator on the calling of HVMB for their respective zones. As is currently the practice the implementation of a HVMB will be communicated via the Shires SMS system for those who have completed the Shire's Harvest and Total Vehicle Movement application form. It will also be communicated via the Shire's website and Facebook page.

Please see the map which shows the 4 zones inclusive of their boundaries.

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.

FESTIVE SEASON OFFICE CLOSURE

Please be advised that the Shire of Dandaragan Adminiatration Centre will be closed from 4.00pm Thursday 24 December 2020 and re-opening at 9.00am Monday 4 January 2021. Councillors and staff from the Shire of Dandaragan wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

SANTA VISITS ALTA MARE AND JURIEN BAY HEIGHTS

We have heard a very quiet whisper that a well known Christmas character will be driving the streets of Alta Mare and Jurien Heights in the Canover Volunteer bushfire fire truck on Tuesday 22nd of December at around 5pm.

So when you hear sirens that afternoon bring your little ones to your fence lines to say hello to the big jolly bearded fellow and to get some Christmas treats.

SHIRE AND THE FIRE FIGHTING COMMUNITY BUILDS UNDERSTANDING TOGETHER

On Saturday 7th November a cross section of our local fire fighting community and Shire representatives gathered at the Canover Volunteer Bushfire Brigade shed at Alta Mare as a single group to do some familiarisation training.

Volunteer Members from the Jurien Bay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Canover Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Shire of Dandaragan and local Parks and Wildlife personnel gathered with their fire appliances and rescue equipment and spent a couple of hours conducting knowledge sessions on each piece of equipment including the Shire Water Truck which is regularly sent to bushfires during the fire season.

Checks were conducted to ensure that all of the fire appliances from the different agencies had the correct fittings to allow them to take water from the Shire Truck. As the group walked through each appliance there were takeaway learnings for everyone involved.

It is fantastic to see our different firefighting agencies working together as a single unit. The session was followed by a social BBQ and refreshments at the Canover shed where everyone simply enjoyed each others company and talking all things fire.

Combined training days like these are invaluable in building relationships and knowledge that later transfer into team work and understanding when on the fireground fighting fires.

On behalf of the Shire a huge thank you to all of our firefighting volunteers and the Parks and Wildlife staff for your efforts and Merry Christmas to you all. To the broader community please be fire aware over the Christmas season so that our firefighters can enjoy their time with familyrather than being out fighting fires.

DREDGING WORKS PLANNED FOR JURIEN BAY MARINA

The Shire of Dandaragan has received advice from BMT Global, on behalf of the Department of Transport, that CGC Dredging will be undertaking dredging works at the Jurien Bay Boat Harbour from Monday 30 November through to early April 2021.

These maintenance works will help manage and mitigate the current issues of sand ingress and seagrass wrack accumulating in the harbour with the removal of sand and wrack material to restore the harbour to the original depths when constructed in 1986.

Public information signage will be installed at the site once works commence however any issues or complaints raised by the public, during these works can be forwarded directly to the BMT Project Managers on 0488 986 828 or 0424 630 837.

2020 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN / YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD NOMINEES

The Awards Ceremony will be held at the **Cervantes Community Centre on Tuesday 9 February 2021, commencing at 7.00pm.**

Supper and refreshments will be provided.an invitation by request is extended to the public to attend

Outstanding Citizen nominees:

Name of Nominee	*Nominating Organisation(s) or Person*
Sue Lowe	Lester Marston
Graham Lethlean	Badgingarra Community Association
Ric Ellison	Dandaragan Golf Club
Mike Sheppard	Jurien Bay Community Resource Centre
Richard Cooper	Advance Dandaragan

Outstanding Young Citizen nominees:

Name of Nominee	*Nominating Organisation(s) or Person*
Neave Mayhew	Jurien Bay Emergency Service Cadet Corps
Luke Johnson	Jurien Bay Emergency Service Cadet Corps
Imojen Thompson-Cleak	Jurien Bay Emergency Service Cadet Corps

RSVP Monday 1 February 2021 either by phoning Robyn Headland on 9652 0800 or email council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au

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.

SHIRE CONTINUES TO DELIVER CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

Last week local contractors completed the widening of the Badgingarra Truck Bay with a new seal and some asphalting following the relocation of the Badgingarra CBH sample hut to this same location.

This project has long been a desire of the Badgingarra community and provides truck drivers access to the truck bay off the Brand Highway. The widening works also provide the ability for trucks to turn back out onto Meagher Drive to continue along the Brand.

Works on sealing Hanson Bay Road,into Lake Thetis, Cervantes, will commence this week with local contractors again being engaged to form up the road in preparation for these works and Shire staff will commence the carting of gravel this Thursday. The road will remain open to traffic during this time.

Other works include Jurien East Road, east of Munbinea Road, where gravel / water mixing and compacting will take place this Thursday over the 9km's of road works currently being reconstructed.

Traffic management will be in place at both locations, however road users are advised to drive carefully and to expect some delays.

CERVANTES PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ACTIVATE NEW DUAL USE PATHWAYS

Last week Year 2 and 3 students and staff from Cervantes Primary School were invited to activate newly constructed dual use paths in Cervantes.

These paths were jointly funded by the Department of Transport and the Shire of Dandaragan as one of its 2019-2020 / 2020-2021 WA Bike Network Plan projects.

Joined by Shire President, Cr Leslee Holmes and Councillor Rudy Rybarczyk, students and staff enjoyed a sausage sizzle and cool drink at the end of their ride before returning to school.

LAST DAYS TO BE PART OF THE WHEATBELT CENTRAL COAST FOOD AND BEVERAGE GUIDE

Do you know of someone who makes and sells great jams (or honeycomb or kombucha or cakes) or any other delicious local food or beverage product and sells to the public?

Lets show the state what a bunch of talented and creative people we are and get them to be part of this free regional food and beverage guide. Tag them in the comments below.

If you have questions please contact the Project Coordinator, Miranda Wallace, at the Shire of Gingin via cmo@gingin.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9575 5150.

Are you looking for a way to showcase your food & beverage product range to a wider audience of consumers & buyers?

If so APPLY NOW for FREE for inclusion in the Central Coast Wheatbelt Food & Beverage Capability Guide

Hurry, closes 30 November!