

SHIRE MATTERS



SHIRE OF
DANDARAGAN

Issue 137 - July 2020

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DRAFT ARTS AND CULTURE PLAN NOW OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Shire of Dandaragan is inviting public comment on its Draft Vibrant Communities Plan.

Providing feedback requires respondents to have read the Draft Vibrant Communities Plan, available in hard copy at the Shire's Administration Office and local libraries or download a copy from the Shire's website.

The Draft Vibrant Communities Plan was informed by the community through a range of consultation opportunities, including community workshops, in-person discussions, and surveys, and developed in consultation with the arts, culture and heritage sectors and in collaboration with a group of cultural leaders in the Shire's community.

We now wish to ensure we have heard what the community and our stakeholders have said throughout the process and reflected it in an aspirational plan for arts and culture in the Shire of Dandaragan.

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. It will be available until 8am Thursday 9 July 2020.

Hard copies are available at the Shire's Administration Office and local libraries or complete the survey on the Shire's website.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Leslee Holmes
Ph. 0408 419 468

Reflections

Whilst writing this report I am reflecting on the disasters going on all over the world including peaceful protests calling for racial equality and protests that have escalated with violence and the tearing down of statues that were part of the history of this world. The world's history is complex and it's important to consider the past from multiple lenses. I remember the actions from Nelson Mandela who after years of incarceration refused to destroy photographs or statues of his oppressors and chose to use them for reflection. By appreciating multiple perspectives we can reflect on the way the world has changed and the varying consequences this has had on people of all backgrounds. This should influence our decision making as we look to the future. I don't believe that destroying or erasing history contributes to thoughtful debate; we should learn from the past to improve society for all. While our regional communities are somewhat removed from these global tensions and we have been spared from the greatest impacts of Covid19, we need to consider why that is and hope that our government continues making good decisions for all of us.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

I am now the Vice Chair of the Wheatbelt Development Commission which even though it adds to my workload gives me a great insight into the rest of the Wheatbelt. I have to report that the Shire of Dandaragan is envied by most as a region that has so much to offer and is doing incredibly well despite this critical time in our history. With the third round of the REDS grants we will be seeing some great examples of small business reaching out for assistance to make their businesses stronger and for others the help to start a business in our region. I spent two days in the lovely little town of Beverley last week and I was very impressed with the town and the way the community work together to bring lasting improvements to the town and environs. They are currently working on the main street upgrade which will include a skate park. Driving out there through the beautiful farming areas made me forget for a while what is going on in the rest of Australia. The little lambs and their mothers enjoying a bit of sunshine completely unaware of how much we need sheep in this country and are very short of them at present.

Ministerial Zoom conference

I was honoured to represent the Wheatbelt on a Zoom conference focussing on recovery the other day. There were 30 of us from all over the regions who were all able to share their experiences and ideas for recovery.

Some great conversations with Minister Alanah McTiernan and Minister Stephen Dawson will no doubt help this government to understand our special needs in the regions.

Turquoise Way Path

CEO Brent and I hosted representatives from the Department of Transport who came to ride and experience our beautiful bike path from Jurien Bay to Hill River. They were very impressed and we hope that this visit will help towards government realising how important this project is to the recovery and rebuilding our tourism offering in the coastal towns. The completion of this path, together with the foreshore developments in both Cervantes and Jurien Bay, will attract new business and events to the region and cement our place as one of WA's tourism hotspots.

Nova 93.7

Last week Cervantes enjoyed the energetic crew from Nova 93.7. The group spent two fun filled days in Cervantes starting with a tour of the Pinnacles and a visit on the Seal of Approval to visit the seals and pull the pots for their own crayfish. They then hosted dinner for invited guests at the Lobster Shack which was a great fun evening with some very entertaining people. The next day started early, broadcasting from the Cervantes Pinnacles Motel and Edge Resort. Record crowds came for breakfast to listen to the broadcast and mingle with Nathan, Nat and Shaun for a great morning of fun. We cannot wait to see them come back again.



Six IX

Peter House and staff from Indian Ocean Rock Lobster and the Lobster Shack hosted the first group of winners from their current promotion. What an amazing day for 40 residents of a retirement village in Perth. The sun shone, the ocean was calm and after a great luxury coach trip the lucky winner arrived with his friends. They were all taken for a ride on the Seal of Approval to see the seals doing what they do best and putting on a great performance. This was followed by pulling up lobster pots and then back to the Shack for a lobster lunch. They all had a day they will never forget and many keen to come back again.

Advance Dandaragan

Recently Brent, Councillor Clarke and myself attended the AGM of Advance Dandaragan. It was very rewarding to see such a big crowd and I must congratulate the committee for the great job they do in keeping their little town at the forefront of opportunities for the region. They have some great plans for the future and partnering with us will transform the streetscape of the town. John Brown communicated his vision to start the process of building a museum in the town which will help to attract many travellers from the Brand Highway to enjoy the history of the town. Dandaragan CRC presented their Dandaragan Way Arts Project Proposal which looks really inspirational and with funding they should be able to get started on it very soon.



GREENING JURIEN BAY

Late last year we shared photos of new trees planted along the northern end of Bashford Street in Jurien Bay. Following delivery of a truckload of new trees yesterday, Shire depot staff wasted no time getting these in the ground that same day, continuing to green our streets with new Norfolk pines along the southern end of Bashford Street, which look great.

Ongoing tree planting will continue within all Shire town-sites within the coming weeks, and into the new financial year.

WA TOURISM RECOVERY GRANTS

Are you a tourism operator who has experienced extreme business hardship due to the COVID-10 pandemic and travel restrictions?

The WA Government, through Tourism WA, has committed \$14.4 million to the WA Tourism Recovery Program; a package to support the tourism industry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now open is the \$4 million Tourism Business Survival Grant. The Tourism Business Survival Grant will be available to successful eligible tourism operators demonstrating extreme business hardship with grants of \$25,000 to \$100,000 available.

The program's aim is to ensure a viable tourism industry in Western Australia, enabling the survival of businesses that attract visitors to the State.

The funds can be used to help with survival and recovery costs including fixed costs and overheads (storage, insurance, maintenance, rent etc.); adapting products and experiences to the domestic market; reinstating operations and licensing systems; staff recruitment and training as well as promotional and advertising activities.

This is a competitive grant program and we encourage you to find out more about what's required, if you're eligible and what the funding can support here.

Remember, if you've been successful in receiving funds from the WA Tourism Recovery Fund, you can still apply for a Tourism Business Survival Grant. To see if your business is eligible, or to apply, go to <https://www.tourism.wa.gov.au/Industry-support/Industry-resources/Coronavirus/Pages/WA-Tourism-Recovery-Program.aspx#/>

SHIRE TO REINTRODUCE FIRE WEATHER ZONES

At the Shire's Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held in Badgingarra on Wednesday 24 June it was confirmed that the Shire would reintroduce four fire weather zones for the next fire season.

Fire weather zones are a way of splitting the total area of 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 represents how difficult a fire could be to control and is based on temperature, relative humidity, curing rate and wind speed. When the grassland fire danger index 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. The use of a single zone encompassing the entire 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 kilometers 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 will be;

- 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 Shires Harvest and Total Vehicle Movement application form. (available on the Shire Website) It will also be communicated via the Shires Website and its Facebook page.

A revised map will be published prior to the start of the next fire season that will clearly show 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.



You're invited to our Yandin Wind Farm Community Update

Where: Online, go to www.yandinwindfarm.com.au/community-update and follow the instructions to join the meeting.

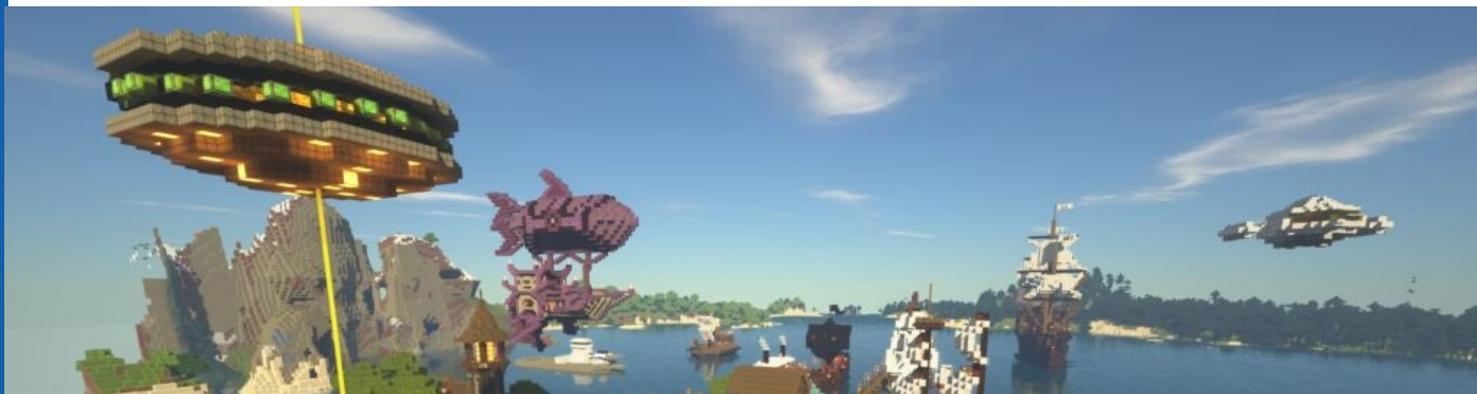
Date: Tuesday 14 July
Time: 7:00PM (AWST)

We would love for you to join us at our fourth Yandin Wind Farm Community Evening.

We're excited to share with you some of the updates to the construction phase of WA's biggest windfarm to date, and some of the ways we're investing in the Dandaragan community.

JURIEN BAY LIBRARY

Open Mon-Fri 9am -4pm



LIBRARY



CRAFT

Since the restrictions of COVID-19, the Shire has been improving and expanding our online library services. One of the new online programs we are providing is access to Library Craft - a free gaming Minecraft Server for WA players aged 7 to 17 with their library membership.

The server is provided by multiple WA local governments and is safe, secure and moderated. There are multiple worlds including Survival Mode, Creative Mode and Monthly Competitions, as well as PVP combat, Spleef, Skyblock, Racing, and more. You will need your own copy of Minecraft to play – it is available on PC, iOS, Android, Windows 10, Nintendo Switch and Xbox.

To join and to have a look at what else is available online using your library membership, check out the What's on at the Library page at www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au.

LIBRARIES ASSISTING HOME EDUCATION

Latham and Mason Eddy are regulars at Storytime. Their mum Kelly home schools the boys and their library day is Wednesday.

They borrowed Robert Winston's "Outdoor Maker Lab" exciting experiments for budding scientist's from our junior resource book section.

If you are home schooling too we would love to hear from you to see how we can provide additional resources for your child's education. Pictured are Latham and Mason with their wormery experiment.



FREE BOOK EXCHANGE -TAKE A BOOK LEAVE A BOOK



Free book exchanges are located at many of the Shire of Dandaragan Libraries. These community book exchanges are a great way to spread the love of books and pay it forward. Keep your eye out for new book exchange houses outside the Cervantes Post Office and the return of the book house outside Jurien Bay Thrifty Hardware.





Storytime

Come down to the Jurien Bay Library at 11am every Wednesday and listen to one of our wonderful community members read for our special story-time sessions.

Sessions are for children and their special grown ups to read, explore and create.

Each week we have a different reader, volunteer readers welcome.

See you at storytime!

