

SHIRE MATTERS

Issue 136 - June 2020



69 Bashford Street / PO Box 676, Jurien Bay WA 6516 - Phone 08 9652 0800 - Email council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au - Web www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au



IN THIS ISSUE:

Shire COVID Plan for reopening Administration Centre in Jurien Bay	1
Message from the Shire President	2-3
2020 / 2021 Council Meeting Schedule / Change to Cervantes Library Opening Hours	4
Hazard Reduction Working Group	5
Community Supporting Community / Creative Communities	6
What you can & can't do on a Total Ban Day	7-8
Council endorses Skate Park Concept / Shire of Dandaragan Logos Competition	9

SHIRE COVID PLAN FOR REOPENING ADMINISTRATION CENTRE IN JURIEN BAY



Due to the current operating environment and recent relaxing of restrictions from the State Government, the Shire Administration Centre is now opening to the public from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Although the Administration Centre has reopened, some staff will continue to work from home and provide the same level of service as always, albeit in a different way. If you would like to meet with a staff member outside of the 9am-4pm open hours, please call or email to make an appointment.

The safety of our local staff and community is of utmost importance and our plan is to ensure that the Shire reopens safely and sensibly.

These new opening hours will allow staff access to more flexible working hours as we transition back to a new version of 'normal'.

Please go to the Shire's COVID-19 page for updated information about the Shire's plan for reopening of other facilities.

If you have any concerns or enquiries about our reopening, or our customer service, please contact 9652 0800 or email mccs@dandaragan.wa.gov.au.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Leslee Holmes
Ph. 0408 419 468

Tourism

I am going to start this report with the WA Day Long Weekend as it was such a great time for our Shire. At last people were able to travel to their holiday homes on the coast, bring the caravan, camper trailer, tent or motorhome, and get on the road. Both Cervantes and Jurien Bay were full to the brim with excited travellers enjoying some lovely weather after the dreadful storms only a week before. I spoke to people from as far as Esperance and Kalgoorlie coming to catch some much needed sun before winter sets in. I believe there were some good fish caught from the hundreds of boats and lots of people trying to catch fish from the jetties and beaches. We even saw people swimming, enjoying the clear waters in Jurien Bay. Businesses did their very best to ensure the safety of their customers and hopefully managed to make some money even if not as much as usual for a long weekend.

This has been a very trying time for many and I know some business say they can never recover and I was very heartened to see locals buying locally which will certainly help a lot of small businesses to survive.

I was also very busy, as usual, welcoming a social influencer (yes they still exist) and her family from Perth to Jurien Bay.

I made them welcome and showed them all the great adventures available in our coastal towns. They had a fabulous weekend and I have to thank The Lobster Shack for the tour on the Seal of Approval which delighted the children and friends. They then went to Sandy Cape for the day which they found a very beautiful place for families. They stayed at the Jurien Bay Caravan Park where they were well looked after.

Tourists are the life blood of our towns and I am trying to make sure that they have great experiences. This morning it was very rewarding to see that their weekend was splashed all over Instagram to her many followers. So much has changed in getting the word out there and I will be making sure we get many more visits from people who have big social media accounts.

Shire staff have been working tirelessly on our Tourism and Economic Development Strategy so that we can be better informed on which path to take to ensure a strong place in tourism in WA. There has never been a better time with people not able to go out of WA to entice travellers here. Even though yesterday was the first day of winter, the weather is still lovely and next weekend promises to be even better.

We will soon be starting work on the Jurien Bay Foreshore and when completed this will certainly attract a new demographic to our town. The Youth Precinct, which is much needed, will ensure that both locals and visitors have plenty to occupy them.

Winter has hit with a vengeance

I am sure that everyone is very glad to be over the dreadful storms that hit our lovely coast with a vengeance. The inland towns were badly affected with all the dust which also came over to

the coast and houses and cars were covered in black dust. I have heard that water tanks have had to be drained and hopefully they will fill up again soon. When it finally rained we were all happy but unfortunately this added to the 2 metre tides and 8 metre swell flooding Catalonia Park in Cervantes taking away the primary dune system. The Lobster Shack was inundated with water and a rock wall has been employed to try to prevent another disaster while a permanent solution is worked out. There was some damage in Jurien Bay at Shingle Ave, but not to the same extent as Cervantes. We hope that farmers got the much needed rain and are able to get on with seeding.

Fire Season closes with a Bang

Not only did May bring us one of the biggest storms in a decade, it also brought one of the busiest fire periods in some time with catastrophic fire conditions looming over that very same weekend.

From mid-afternoon on Friday 22 May until late in the evening of Sunday 24 your local Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (Canover, Badgingarra and Dandaragan), Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service (Cervantes), Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (Jurien Bay), Volunteer Fire Control Officers, Parks and Wildlife Staff, Shire staff, farmer response units, local landowners and local earthmoving contractors were continually fighting 5 separate fires across the Shire.



Some of the fires were running simultaneously, which at times stretched resources, and led to minimal sleep for many of the volunteers involved across the weekend. The fires burned across private property, a National Park and Crown Land.

On Sunday, during the worst of the weather, with wind conditions not dissimilar to that experienced in the 2015 Esperance fires, fires were still being attended to by firefighters. Due to the great work of all of the agencies named above none of these fires turned into the type of catastrophic event that can occur in our landscapes in adverse conditions. Having spoken with a number of long-time residents the fire conditions, in terms of duration and intensity, were as bad as any can remember. We are very fortunate to have so many people, both volunteer and professional, who are there to combat the bushfires which present a threat to our communities, particularly during catastrophic fire conditions such as we experienced that weekend.

I'm also advised that the teamwork and collaboration displayed between all of the various agencies in working together on these fires was nothing short of spectacular. On behalf of our Shire, I offer my thanks and gratitude to all of the people involved for your work and dedication in helping to keep our communities safe.



Badgingarra Truck Bay

Recently, exciting news came through for Councillor Richardson and her town ensuring improvement works to the Badgingarra truck bay along Meagher Drive will be completed in the coming financial year. I recently met with Cr Richardson, Shire staff and other members of the community to discuss these works which will see the widening of the entry road off Brand Highway in partnership with Main Roads, replacement kerbing, construction of a new footpath, improved hybrid lighting through the use of wind and solar, and the planting of new trees about the area.

This has been the major desire of the community for a long time and is now able to progress following the federal government's announcement in January of funding available through its Drought Communities Program extension.

Cr Richardson has lobbied for a long time to achieve this great outcome. She never gives up and is an outstanding representative for a small but active group of people. They never stop planning and we are all looking forward to their next project. It is so pleasing to see this hard work pay off and to be able to see their vision come to fruition in the near future. Senior staff are bunkered down now as it is budget time again. This is a more difficult process than usual due to COVID-19 and all its implications. Councillors have a hard time choosing what are the best projects to ensure that we have a safe and prosperous future.

Wedge Island

Following the recent storms the mighty Indian Ocean has claimed another shack at Wedge Island and it is currently being removed. Speaking to shack owners they report there has been so much erosion over the years since they have been going there. There was an accident there over the weekend in the dunes and someone was airlifted out. We hope that they will recover soon. There was also a similar accident in Lancelin so If you are going to Wedge or Grey, please do not drive in the dunes at night as it is extremely dangerous.

Hotels and Cafes Opening

At last we will be able to go to hotels, clubs, cafes albeit still with limited numbers. For the larger venues this will not bring enough relief but for our little towns these numbers will make a great number. We hope that everyone stays vigilant and are careful with their new found freedom.



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2020 / 2021

Please be advised that the Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2020 / 2021 will be held on the following dates, times and venues

DAY	DATE	TIME	MEETING VENUE
Thurs	23 July 2020	4.00pm	Jurien Bay
Thurs	27 August 2020	11.00am	Jurien Bay School Visit
Thurs	24 September 2020	4.00pm	Dandaragan
Thurs	22 October 2020	4.00pm	Jurien Bay
Thurs	26 November 2020	4.00pm	Cervantes
Thurs	17 December 2020	4.00pm	Jurien Bay
Thurs	28 January 2021	5.00pm	Jurien Bay
Thurs	25 February 2021	4.00pm	Jurien Bay
Thurs	25 March 2021	4.00pm	Jurien Bay
Thurs	22 April 2021	4.00pm	Badgingarra
Thurs	27 May 2021	4.00pm	Jurien Bay
Thurs	24 June 2021	4.00pm	Jurien Bay



CHANGE TO CERVANTES LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

The Cervantes Community Recreation Centre is currently undergoing renovations. During this period, instead of the normal 4-6pm Thursday opening hours, the library will now be open from 3-5pm on Thursdays, until further notice.

Tuesday opening hours will remain the same.



Protection burn underway to the east of Jurien Heights

HAZARD REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

Back in January the Shire of Dandaragan Hazard Reduction Working Group held its first meeting to commence the development of a three year hazard reduction plan that will identify priority areas across the Shire of Dandaragan for mitigation burns and other bushfire preventative treatments. Mitigation burns are designed to reduce natural fire intensity and slow the rate of spread to allow easier and safer suppression activities for our fire fighters both professional and volunteers.

This group is a multi-agency team comprised of representatives from the Shire of Dandaragan, The Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Since January the group has been focused on identifying priority areas for burning, mapping the area's and incorporating them into the three year plan and actually conducting the burns that were identified for this current autumn period.

One of the key areas that was identified as presenting significant risk to the town of Jurien Bay was the open bushland that surrounds the rural sub developments of Alta Mare and Jurien Heights. There have been a number of mitigation burns conducted since last spring to this area with several burns also being conducted in recent weeks. There is now a significant area of treated bushland that runs from Jurien East Road at Alta Mare around to the South Eastern corner of Jurien Heights. A large block of ground that is bordered by the cemetery, coal seam industrial area, the waste disposal facility and Canover Road has also been burnt. This now provides a significant buffer to large parts of Alta Mare, Jurien Heights and the Town of Jurien Bay. These burns have been conducted by Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Shire of Dandaragan would like to recognise the fantastic work done by their teams during this autumn burning period. Canover Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Hill River Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Cervantes Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service and Jurien Bay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and the Shire of Dandaragan have all provided personnel and resources to assist Parks and Wildlife in conducting these burns. It is fantastic to see the levels of collaboration and team work that is happening between all of these groups during the burns.

With the rain that we have had in recent weeks the Autumn burning window may be closing however the Hazard Reduction Working group will be meeting during the winter period to push the planning horizon out further and confirm which areas will be treated during the spring burning period. Already in the plan are further burns for Jurien Bay, Cervantes, Regan's Ford and a large block of privately owned bush land on North West Road to the East of the Brand Highway.

Its worth noting that on Monday 25 May the National Royal Commission into the Black Summer Bushfires commenced it's hearings into the fires which devastated large parts of the country last summer. The Hazard Reduction Working Group will be following the outcomes of the royal Commission closely to see what lessons can be applied in our own efforts to keep our Shire as safe as possible from bushfire.





COMMUNITY SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

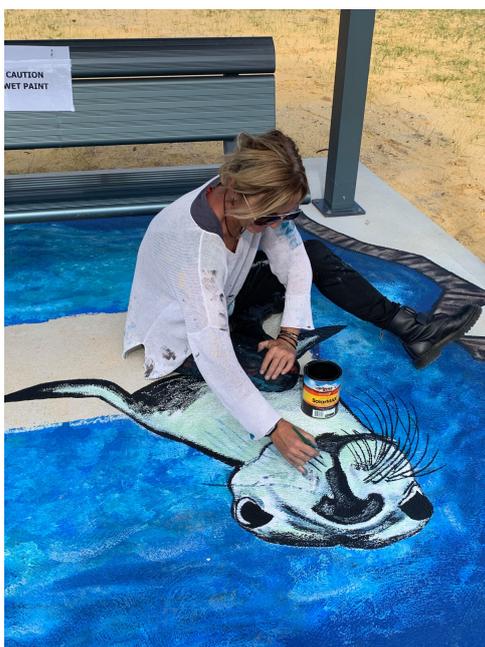
The COVID Neighbourhood Heart Initiative is a volunteer and recipient linking service that was launched in March 2020 to help support our community through the impacts of increasing isolation and unprecedented challenges experienced due to COVID-19.

The outbreak of Coronavirus saw many new challenges emerge for at-risk members of our community. While many people hunkered down into isolation, over 45 residents of the Shire of Dandaragan registered to volunteer their time and services through the initiative, offering connection, assistance and enabling a new way to meet the everyday needs of our at-risk community members.

As restrictions ease, the demand for assistance through the initiative has decreased, with most recipients already making the shift back into normal daily routines.

Initiative recipient Christine, who required assistance with grocery shopping, said, “What an absolutely wonderful initiative and a life saver during self-isolation. I was fortunate enough to know my linked volunteer so it made communication easier.”

The Shire of Dandaragan would like to thank everyone who registered to participate in the COVID Neighbourhood Heart Initiative, for demonstrating the strengths and resilience within our community.



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

As our communities get back to normal and we await the Shire's first arts and culture strategy, we are pleased that we've been able to continue to create economic opportunities for local businesses. We didn't forget our artists. We've commissioned two very talented local artists who have been hard at work recently, working on some permanent pavement art in two secret locations around Jurien Bay.

These permanent art pieces came hot on the heels of the gorgeous chalk art that popped up by Sea Spray Art by Kiera during isolation time along the Turquoise Way last month.

We can't wait to share the finished pieces for locals and visitors to enjoy. We love our vibrant communities.

WHAT YOU CAN AND CANT DO ON A TOTAL FIRE BAN DAY

What is a Total Fire Ban ?

Total Fire Bans are declared by the State through the department of Fire and Emergency Services. Total Fire Bans are declared on days when a fire is most likely to spread rapidly (because of extreme fire weather) or if there are already widespread fires and resources to fight more are already stretched. During a total fire ban the lighting of open-air fires or any other activity in the open air that is likely to start a fire is banned.

Total Fire Bans can be called at any time during the year even during non-restricted burning periods or on days when the weather conditions may seem mild as bans may be implemented the day before forecast or expected extreme fire weather. Generally Total Fire Bans are declared late in the afternoon and become effective at Midnight.

Total Fire Bans Affect Everyone

Every Western Australian is affected including farmers, campers, construction workers and residents in both urban and rural areas.

In open-air, you cannot:

- Light maintain or use a fire (even when camping)
- Burn leaves, garden waste or grass cuttings
- Use an incinerator
- Grind, weld, solder, gas cut or engage in any other type of 'hot work'
- Use fire works
- Operate a hot air balloon
- Use a BBQ that uses solid fuel
- Use an outdoor woodfired pizza oven or stove

In any area where there is bush, crops, pasture and stubble, you cannot use equipment powered by an internal combustion engine such as:

- A chainsaw or lawn mower
- A plant trimmer or grass trimmer
- Bobcats, excavators, bulldozers (or any other similar machines)
- A welder
- A Car
- A tractor
- A motorbike
- An angle grinder
- A quad bike
- A dune buggy
- A generator

This includes if you are inside a shed with one or more open sides.

You can undertake these activities inside your shed if it is fully enclosed on all sides (i.e. has a door, four walls and a roof), so sparks don't blow outside.

Undercover areas such as patios, pergolas and huts that are open or partially open are considered to be open-air.

Barbequing or cooking outdoors

You cannot use any BBQ or cooker (including Weber's) that require solid fuel:

- Wood
- Charcoal
- Heat Beads

You can use a gas or electric BBQ or cooker, if:

- It's a permanent BBQ in a public picnic area
- You use it in a public space within the sign posted BBQ area
- It's at or in your home

- It has an enclosed flame
- You clear all material that could burn within a 5m radius around it.

Looking After Your Farm

If you are a farmer, you can:

- Harvest your crop
- Feed or water your stock in a paddock
- Operate or move an aero plane or a helicopter

This is assuming that a Harvest and Total Vehicle Movement Ban has not been declared by the Shire.

Some industries and activities can be given an exemption, to carry out certain activities. And some activities being carried out by industry, business and public authorities are allowed, as long as certain conditions are adhered to.

If you want more information regarding these activities, and the conditions required to carry them out on a Total Fire Ban, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

If you conduct any of the above activities you must ensure:

- Your vehicle is mechanically sound
- The exhaust system is in good condition (free of gas leaks and/or has a well maintained spark arrester)
- That all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent a bushfire starting.

Check if there's a Total Fire Ban in place today by:

Visiting the emergency WA website (emergency.wa.gov.au)

Calling 13 DFES (133 337)

Calling the TFB Hotline 1800 709 355

Following DFES ON Twitter

Following DFES on Facebook

Listening to ABC local radio and other media outlets

Looking for main roads WA Variable Message Signs

Looking out for local government roadside Fire Danger Rating Signs

There are penalties if you ignore a Total Fire Ban

If you ignore a total fire ban, you may receive an infringement of \$1000. And if it's a serious breach, you may receive a penalty of \$25,000 and/or be jailed for 12 months.

It is your responsibility to check if a Total Fire Ban is in place before you light a fire in the open air.

Undercover areas such as patios, pergolas and huts that are open or partially open are considered to be open-air.



Photo: Consequences of not abiding to Total Fire Bans



COUNCIL ENDORSES SKATE PARK CONCEPT

At the 28 May 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting, Councillors endorsed the Jurien Bay Youth Precinct – Skate Park Concept Plan.

The Chief Executive Officer has since called for tenders for the construction of the Skate Park which means the start of construction is not far away.

It was also recommended and endorsed that final design elements, including furniture selection and public art will be carried out with input from a working group. We will call for community member nominations for the Jurien Bay Foreshore Working Group in early June.

To view the complete concept plan, go to Major Projects page under Economic Development on the Shire website www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au/services.

SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN LOGOS COMPETITION

WIN A \$200 VOUCHER FROM A PARTICIPATING LOCAL BUSINESS OF YOUR CHOICE

The Shire of Dandaragan is holding a competition to help design our Libraries and Youth's first logos. All logo designs and concepts will be considered.

The winning designs and/or concepts will be provided to a professional graphic designer to be incorporated into the Shire of Dandaragan's Library logo and Youth logo.

Winners will receive a \$200 voucher from a participating local business of your choice.

Once you have designed your logo, submissions can be made by completing the entry form below and mailing to the Shire of Dandaragan, PO Box 676, Jurien Bay WA 6516. Alternatively, you can submit online at our News section at www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au. Entries close 15 June 2020.



✂ **Entries Close 5PM 15 June 2020**

NAME		
AGE		
PHONE		
EMAIL		
TOWN OF RESIDENCE		
CIRCLE YOUR LOGO	LIBRARY LOGO	YOUTH LOGO

All logo designs must be submitted by 15 June 2020. Logos can be drawn, painted or digitally designed. Logo must be the original work of the person submitting the design. Library logo entries must incorporate the words Shire of Dandaragan and Library. Youth logo entries must incorporate the words Shire of Dandaragan and Youth. Youth logo entrants must be 22 years of age or younger. Ideas and designs must be submitted with a completed entry form.