



Shire of Busselton E-News November/December 2007

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MESSAGE FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that 2007 is drawing to a close. Much has happened in the past twelve months, including the local government elections which saw five new councillors join the Council team, the re-election of Cr. Don Hanran-Smith and myself elected to the position of Shire President.

Your new Council has a challenging time ahead in its endeavour to balance significant growth with the aspirations of the community. This challenge isn't unique to the Shire of Busselton as many coastal communities around the country are experiencing similar pressures.

In an effort to find long-term solutions to these challenges the Shire of Busselton has been chosen to participate in a national [Sea Change study](#) to identify and clarify current economic directions in coastal communities and to help local government authorities develop tools so as to stimulate sustainable growth in their local economies.

With so much happening in our area, an overview of the diversity of some of the projects Shire Staff and Council are working towards in the coming year will shortly be delivered to all residents. This publication is entitled 'Shire Guide' and outlines a number of ways in which we all can become involved and have a say in the variety of projects before us.

Opportunities in the very near future to have that say are the Annual General Meeting of Electors to be held on Wednesday 19th December at the Busselton Baptist Community Centre and also at the Dunsborough Electors Meeting on Monday 17th December at the Naturaliste Community Centre, both commencing at 5.30pm. I encourage all residents to take part and express your views.

In closing, I wish you all a very happy, safe and prosperous new year.

Cr. Wes Hartley Shire President

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

The agendas and minutes of Council's meetings can be located on the Shire's website [Click here for direct link](#)

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor contact details are available on the Shire's website [Click here for direct link](#)

ELECTOR'S MEETINGS

Meeting of Electors - Dunsborough

Monday 17th December, 2007 at the Naturaliste Community Centre, Dunsborough. Meeting commences at 5.30pm.

Annual General Meeting of Electors

Wednesday 19th December, 2007 at the Busselton Baptist Community Centre, cnr Queen Elizabeth Avenue and Recreation Drive, Busselton. Meeting commences at 5.30pm.

NEW SHIRE NUMBER PLATE SERIES

The Shire has now released a new special series plate for the 'Shire of Busselton'. The plate replaces the previous Shire number plate which displayed the old Shire logo. As this plate is a revamp of the old number plate the numbers available are limited to those remaining for sale under the old BSN plate. To find out what numbers are available and to order your new look plates at the same price as the old plate, \$312, contact the Shire's Customer Service Centre in Southern Drive, Busselton on 9781 0444. [Click here to read more and view an image of the new Special Series Number Plate](#)

Owners of the old BSN special series plate can upgrade their plate to the new look, still retaining their number' at a cost of \$85 by contacting the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Other special series Shire plates currently available include Dunsborough, at a cost of \$390 and Yallingup \$380. Contact the Shire's Customer Service Centre for further details.

OPTIONS FOR RATEPAYERS 2nd payment option due 21st December

There are a number of ways in which rates payments can be made. Payments can be made in person at, or posted to, the Shire Administration Offices; other alternatives such as BPAY or Bill Express may well be more convenient for many ratepayers.

By contacting your own financial institution, you can arrange to make your rates payments using BPAY, a national bill payment service that allows customers to pay bills via telephone banking or online direct from their account or credit card.

Alternatively, payments can be made using Bill Express. This national payment network allows payments to be made directly via the Shires website www.busselton.wa.gov.au, by telephone for credit card payments, or at any participating newsagency that displays the Bill Express logo. The Shires website provides a list of local participating newsagents.

See your rates notice which provides information on options available to you.

BUSSELTON JETTY UPDATE

At its meeting on Wednesday 28th November, Council received a report from the Shire's Auditors which outlined the cost to Council of a 50 year maintenance plan for five options in respect to rebuilding the Busselton Jetty.

The findings of the report indicated that the more money spent upfront the greater the long term financial benefit would be to Council, due to reduced maintenance costs in the early years and with the current escalation in construction costs.

The State Government's offer not only provides an initial \$6M upfront but also means (depending upon surpluses from land development) Council will receive its contribution in return in approximately 5 years time.

In addition to this, the State's offer also includes the creation of four new commercial ground leases on the foreshore which when taken up are estimated to provide an annual income to the Jetty maintenance fund in excess of \$370,000 per annum. Undertaking short term solutions now would mean, according to the Shire's Auditors, the Shire would need to find an additional \$3.1M every year for the next seven years to fund the works required within this timeframe.

On this basis, the only sustainable option considered by Council involved accepting the State Government's offer and seeking \$6M from the Federal Government. Shire representatives will now negotiate the details associated with the State's offer over the coming months which will be reflected in a project agreement for Council's consideration.

Council will require Landcorp to undertake extensive community consultation in the detail associated with the development of the foreshore which is expected to commence in the New Year. The results of the community consultation and the detailed development plans will be presented to Council for consideration.

Further consultation will be undertaken with affected groups and lessee's including the current users of Churchill Park on their relocation.

In respect to the Federal Government funding a delegation will be sent to Canberra to raise awareness of the project with the new Government and seek a decision on the application submitted in December 2006.

DOG OWNERS BEWARE

DOG attacks and complaints have risen significantly in recent weeks and the Shire of Busselton is warning dog owners to do the right thing or be fined.

Since October 1st 2007, Rangers have received 19 dog attack complaints, 48 complaints about dogs wandering, 12 calls from frustrated residents regarding dogs barking excessively and 34 other general complaints about dogs. [Read more...](#)

FUTURE OF LOCKE ESTATE

An overwhelming public response to a draft report outlining three possible options for the future of the Locke Estate has highlighted the success of the Shire of Busselton's stakeholder consultation program in fully engaging the community as a whole.

Shire of Busselton President, Cr. Wes Hartley, said more than 600 submissions were received from the community and stakeholder groups during the eight week advertising period. Three possible concept plans were presented, covering retention (subject to conditions), consolidation and total reformation of the site.

The Shire officer's report on the future of the Locke Estate will be considered by the Council in late January 2008. [Read more...](#)

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The Shire is compiling a local community database containing the contact details of residents or groups who can assist others in the community who may be disadvantaged by language barriers or other disabilities that make common communication methods inadequate.

This initiative is in response to the Shire's commitment to provide fair and equitable access to information for residents and visitors to the Shire as part of its Access and Inclusion Plan.

If you have the skills to speak an additional language, assist with special translation needs or perhaps are in possession of special equipment to aid effective communication we would like to hear from you.

Please send your details to Stephanie Sparks at steph.sparks@busselton.wa.gov.au or call 9781 0360.

FREE RECYCLING FOR E-WASTE

The community can now dispose of their e-waste with confidence following the introduction of an additional free recycling service at the Busselton and Dunsborough Waste facilities.

With the recent arrival of two sea containers for storing electronic waste items the Shire of Busselton's waste sites can now accept e-waste you take to the tip like old TVs, VCRs, computers, monitors, printers, fax machines and mobile phones all free of charge to the community. The waste sites are also accepting household batteries, unwanted rechargeable batteries, and old fluoro tubes and fluoro globes. [Read more...](#)

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



An initiative of the Shire of Busselton, Busselton Chamber of Commerce and the Dunsborough Chamber of Commerce

Residents and business are being offered the opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit and decorate their houses and businesses with some Christmas cheer.

Judging will take place between 7th and 14th December, 2007 with the winners announced in the Shire's Community page on Friday 21st December, 2007.

Categories are:

Busselton area residents	1st Prize	\$200
	2nd Prize	\$100
Dunsborough area residents	1st Prize	\$200
	2nd Prize	\$100
Busselton Business (CBD & LIA)	1st Prize	\$350
	2nd Prize	\$150
Dunsborough Business (CBD & LIA)	1st Prize	\$350
	2nd Prize	\$150

Criteria:

Judges will be looking for the best Christmas lights display in the residential category.

In the business area judges will consider the uniqueness of entries and look for displays that reflect the business.

It is not essential to register but to ensure your efforts do not go unnoticed residents and businesses can register to enter by emailing steph.sparks@busselton.wa.gov.au with their name, either their residential or business address as appropriate, and by placing Christmas Competition in the subject line. Or call 9781 0360 to register.



With special thanks to Keep Busselton Beautiful Inc and the Lions Club of Dunsborough



CIVIC PRECINCT - COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The Shire has commenced the Civic Precinct Project, which initially involves a feasibility study for the design and construction of a new building in the Busselton Central Business District, near the current library. This centre will accommodate the Shire's current and long term needs for administrative and other space for the next 30 years, and incorporates extensions to the existing library.

Consultation has commenced to engage with businesses, stakeholders and residents to determine the feasibility of moving to the new site.

The Community Reference Group (CRG) are your representatives and provide points of contact for the community. Members are: Alison Brown; Marcus Browne; Delys Forrest; Ian Gregory; Jane Holland; Peter McClurg, Bevil Reynolds; and Neville Walton.

This group will have input into what the new building might need, and can bring forward suggestions from community members about:

- Flexibility to cater for a range of needs, providing room for growth, improving work practices in serving the community and using space efficiently;
- Environmentally sustainable and efficient practices;
- Revitalisation of the library;
- The ability to accommodate community groups including government agencies.

How can you be involved?

For now, you can:

Provide any feedback or comment to the CRG members (their contact details will be available on the Shire's web site soon);

Send your comment directly to the Shire's Project Manager, Bret Howson (Phone: 9781 0498 or email bret.howson@busselton.wa.gov.au)

NEW LIFE FOR OLD DUNSBOROUGH BOAT RAMP

Refurbishment of the Old Dunsborough boat ramp is well on track with approximately 30% of the work completed. The concrete for the ramp is due to be poured this week.

This project is the result of a successful grant application by the Shire under the Australian Government's Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme. The Shire will contribute 50% to the cost of the project.

Ramp users are asked to use alternative boat ramps during the refurbishment.

FLY IN FLY OUT

The inaugural Rio Tinto flight to West Angelas and Yandi in the far north Pilbara left Busselton at 8am on Tuesday 27 November. The pleasant 1 hour 50 minute flight is a far cry from the long vehicle trek to Perth that many south west FIFO employees have had to endure in order to catch outgoing flights. Several returning FIFO employees commented on how easy and safer it would now become, not having to face the prospect of extended vehicle travel after a long shift.

Rio Tinto's Pilbara Mine Operations Managing Director David Smith said it was great to see the company's third regional fly-in, fly-out program start in Busselton. Dr Smith said he expects the Busselton operations to expand quickly as demand grows from new and existing employees.

"It is wonderful to see the flights started from the Busselton Airport. We have to thank the Shire of Busselton and the Geographe Bay Tourism Association for working in partnership with us to get this program off the ground," Dr Smith said.

Rio Tinto will have one regular Tuesday flight to and from the above sites per week on the BAe 146 jet aircraft, an extremely quiet plane. Flight numbers will increase as the number of employees from this region grows.

The first flight attracted Rio employees from Australind, Donnybrook, Nannup, Capel, Bunbury as well as Busselton. With the recent announcement of a major expansion in Rio Tinto operations, Busselton is

perfectly placed to contribute to the activity and will see Busselton become the largest FIFO operation outside Perth by the end of this year.

Importantly, the Shire will continue its efforts to consult with local residents to better manage the future development of the airport for the region.

SEEKING COMMUNITY INPUT

Have your say on the following matters currently out for public comment.

- Amendment No. 5 Rezoning Lot 31 Bussell Highway From "Agriculture" To Special Purpose (Yalyalup Development Area) - Closes 17th December, 2007
- Draft Community Facilities Implementation Policy - Closes 10th December, 2007
- Dunsborough Parking Strategy - Closes 7th December, 2007
- Community Environment Grant 2007/2008 - Closes 6th December, 2007

[Click here](#) for the latest in matters currently out for public comment.

CONGRATULATIONS DUNSBOROUGH - TOP TOURISM TOWN WINNER

The Geographe Bay Tourism Association presented the Shire of Busselton President, Cr. Wes Hartley, with Dunsborough's Top Tourism Town Award, on the Thursday 22 November, at the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse.

The Shire would like to congratulate the Tourism Association and the Dunsborough community for an outstanding effort in securing the award. Having won the award in 1999 and now in 2007 is a great achievement.

The award is now on display in the Shire offices, with a copy also to be displayed in the Dunsborough Visitors Centre.

LINKING THE DUNSBOROUGH CBD TO THE FORESHORE

At the latest Council meeting, it was resolved to contribute \$10,000 to the Dunsborough Yallingup Chamber of Commerce to progress a tourism related strategy on how best to link the Dunsborough CBD to a revamped foreshore.

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