



Shire of Busselton E-News September/October 2007

www.busselton.wa.gov.au

MESSAGE FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

With the adoption of the 2007-2008 budget by Council the Shire is getting on with the many programs and projects before it. It also means that rates notices will be making their way to you in the near future, this year with free tip passes and a free mulch pass included. The passes also include some useful information on correct waste disposal so make sure you keep them in a safe place...you can [Read more on this here..](#)

You may have noticed that the Shire's Community Page now appears in the Busselton Dunsborough Times each Friday. This change now means that information and decisions from Council meetings, held on Wednesdays, can now be communicated to the community in the same week those decisions are made.

The Shire also recently launched its new web site and sought feedback on the usefulness of the site. That feedback identified some further improvements that Shire staff are currently working on. I would like to congratulate the Winner of the web site competition H G Dobbe and thank everyone that took the time to send us their thoughts on the new site.

We certainly have a busy time ahead with Council Elections being held on 20th October. At the close of nominations on 13th September 11 nominations were received for the 6 vacant positions. This means that an election will be held enabling the community to choose their preferred candidates. More on the up coming election will be included in the Council for the Community page and on the Shire's web site.

Bev Clarke Shire President

NEW WEB SITE

Responding to the growing need to improve information access and on-line service facilities the Shire of Busselton has launched its new web site giving the community the best possible opportunity to be informed on the business of their local shire.

The new web site provides a number of features including links to items that are currently out for public consultation, current tender list, employment opportunities, impounded animal register, library catalogue and much more. The site has been extensively revamped and highlights many of the features and attractions within the Shire.

We welcome your thoughts on the new site www.busselton.wa.gov.au as we continually strive to improve its format and content. Comments can be emailed to shire@busselton.wa.gov.au

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

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

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainability was a key consideration in setting this year's balanced budget for the Shire of Busselton, adopted by Council on Wednesday, 29 August, 2007.

Shire President Bev Clarke said that it was important to plan for the future and this year's budget had built upon the strong foundation laid down in the 2006/2007 budget.

The budget reflects a balanced position at June 30, 2008, according to Chief Executive Officer Andrew Macnish.

"While total expenditure exceeds total revenue by approximately \$4M, the Shire's 2006/2007 closing surplus position, which also equated to approximately \$4M, has been used to fund specific projects within the 2007/2008 financial year," Mr Macnish said. [Read more...](#)

OPTIONS FOR RATEPAYERS

RATEPAYERS have a number of payment options available to them to pay their rates as the Shire of Busselton's rates notice arrives in mail boxes soon.

Shire President, Bev Clarke said that "no one likes to receive yet another bill in the mail but remember that your contribution assists in providing a wide range of facilities and services that most of us take for granted."

"Roads just don't appear and your rubbish just doesn't disappear there is a cost involved. Parks your children play in and the book you borrow from the library is made possible from income the Shire receives."

"Your contribution is very important to our community and don't forget to keep your free tip passes and mulch pass handy that will accompany with this year's rates notice", Cr. Clarke said.

The due date for the payment of rates this year is 22nd October and you can choose to pay your rates in full or alternatively choose to pay using the instalment option. Regardless of which option you choose your first instalment must be paid in full by the 22nd October.

There are also 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 26th September, Council will consider a report that recommends the Council formally accepts the offer it received from the State Government on 6 August, 2007 and secures the development and acceptance of a Project Agreement with the State.

There are a number of aspects of the State Government's offer that the Shire does not concur with that require further negotiation, however, on balance it is considered that by securing the State's offer on the understanding of agreement with a range of supplemental points as discussed in this report, there would be sufficient benefit for the Shire to proceed with the project. [Read the full report..](#)

SMITH'S BEACH

Members of the public are invited to make a written submission which should be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, Locked Bag 1, Busselton on or before Monday October 22, 2007 quoting File Reference 5340/1.

Hard copies of the proposal (with additional submission forms) are available for inspection during office hours at the Shire Offices, Southern Drive, Busselton and at the Busselton and Dunsborough Libraries or may be downloaded from the [Smiths Beach Draft Development Guide Plan](#) documentation page. A CD containing the DGP documentation may also be ordered by contacting Joy Reading below.

Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact [Joy Reading](#) in the first instance on 08 97810 469.

[Click here to for further information on submissions](#)

BUSSELTON FORESHORE UPDATE

Emergency Works. The emergency works undertaken at the beach to rebuild the Busselton Town centre beach proved to be very successful and should you venture down there you will see the geotextile groynes largely buried by sand and the presence of a beach to take us safely through summer. The sand bag system was trialled to provide temporary repair of the beach, to see how they performed from a technical sense and to give the community the opportunity to see what they are like. The consultant has indicated that along with the sand renourishment work that was carried out, the sand bag groyne system has performed well, as hoped, and has validated some of the design assumptions that were made.

Two phases for a permanent solution at the beach front are now in progress. Phase 1 is a permanent groyne field and sand renourishment. Phase two is the rebuilding of the seawall.

Phase 1. Groyne and Beach. The consultant has prepared a report with a number of options for the groyne field layout and a decision must be made by Council as to which option it wishes to adopt. In order to do this the Shire will soon be advertising the availability of the report and calling for community input.

Shade Sails, Stinger Nets and Swimming Platforms

The beach will be safe and usable over summer, but the renourishment of the the beach and the installation of the new groynes will not have occurred. For this reason it is proposed that the shade sails, which have the foundations in the sand and in the seawall area, are not installed this season.

Stinger nets and swimming platforms, including the floating one, will be operating as usual over summer.

Phase 2. Seawall.

Remedial Works. Work is being undertaken now to assess the extent of the damage to that part of the seawall that did not collapse, with a view to seeing if it is possible to do some remedial works, to make the walkway slabs safe and open up now barricaded areas at least for the summer period. The aim is to make as much of the beach safe and usable as possible and to minimise the impact of the barricading. We will also ensure the grassed area over which the trucks were entering the site is restored. The carpark has already had a partial bitumen overlay to fix the surface and tidy it up. We thank the staff involved in their tireless work who carried out all this site work and continue to do so.

Seawall Design

A full brief has been finalised for the seawall redesign. A landscape architect will provide two concept designs that will cover the section from the collapsed wall all the way to the jetty. The design will only extend as far inland as the existing limestone wall and will concentrate on the seawall exclusively. This is considered the best way to minimise any influence on what may happen at the rest of the foreshore and will give us this important defence infrastructure in the shortest possible timeframe.

LOCKE ESTATE UPDATE

Following an 8 week public submission period, which closed on Wednesday the 12 September, more than 300 submissions were received on the three Locke Estate concepts.

Matthew Smith, Director of Community & Organisational Development said that the Shire and the Department for Planning & Infrastructure were very pleased to have had such a positive response to the project. We have received quite a lot of well considered ideas which can all be taken into account when decisions are made.

The final report and recommendations are expected to be presented to Council for consideration late this year prior to a formal recommendation on the future of the reserve being submitted to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION ON WEB SITE

Following the release last month of the very successful [Emergency Information Brochure](#), a step by step guide to what you need to know and do in an emergency, the Shire's new web site now contains a new [Emergency Information](#) page. Here you can also access the local emergency management guide. This guide provides important practical prevention information for general emergencies, and specific hazards considered significant in the Shire of Busselton; and important practical information about how to prepare for incidents such as bush fire, severe storms, house fire and information relating to the support agencies involved in those emergencies.

Development of this guide was made possible by funding through the Australian Federal Government's "Working together to Manage Emergencies (WTME)" Program.

CIVIC PRECINCT

Nominations from community representatives interested in being involved in the development of the new civic precinct concept via a Community Reference Group have been **extended to 24th September**.

The Community Reference Group would be involved in aspects of the project from building design to environmental sustainability and master planning the new site.

The Community Reference Group will also play a large role in determining the future uses of the current Administration Building site.

We are seeking people from a wide range of backgrounds and interests to make up this 10 member group which will meet monthly during the feasibility study process.

The reference group will be actively involved in communicating and consulting with the wider community at various stages of the process.

Information on the Community Reference Group and Nomination Forms are available on the Shire's website [Click here for further information and forms](#), the Administration Facility or Busselton and Dunsborough Libraries.

PORT GEOGRAPHE SEAGRASS

The deposition of seagrass or wrack, on the beaches of Geographe Bay is an entirely natural process which normally resolves itself in Spring time. Predominantly, the wrack moves back out to sea and presumably decomposes. A smaller percentage is deposited on the beaches, covered by sand and becomes part of the shoreline. The accumulation of wrack at Port Geographe is natural, but is exaggerated because the western beach at Port Geographe is designed to capture the sand and seagrass. From there it is pumped across the groynes to Wonnerup beach, where it is deposited, to continue its journey to the north. It should be noted that bypassing is a common practice used world wide to manage harbour entries and ensure that they remain navigable.

A number of complaints have been received relating to the seagrass odour emissions at Port Geographe. The Shire has undertaken monitoring with equipment supplied by the Department of Environment and Conservation, and with the advice of the Health Department. Monitoring is expected to continue till the end

of September and then the data sent to the Health Department for assessment. The early spot measurements have yielded zero readings and one low reading and are indicative of amenity problems that the Shire has received complaints about. This is also in line with the Department of Health's assessment that was carried out previously. However, a full assessment of the information will be carried out by the Health Department once the monitoring programme has been completed.

The developer will be required to review and update the odour management plan and provide mechanisms for continuous improvement. With respect to resolution of the seaweed problem it must be acknowledged that the deposition of seagrass will continue to occur each year all along the bay and that it is a question of management of the seagrass. A study is being developed to help understand the life cycle and movement of the seagrass. This will enable the Shire to make an informed decision about whether alteration of the groynes is a good idea or not. Without a good understanding of sea wrack it would not be in the best interests of the community or the Shire to reconfigure the groynes in the hope that such a configuration worked.

Since Seaport became involved in the project a new pumping system, unique in the world has been designed and is operating successfully to move the wrack and sand. We are focussed on making sure the system minimises the amenity impacts to the community and recognise that there is a programme of continuous improvement to get the best outcome for the Shire and the community.

FLY IN FLY OUT

Following commencement of the highly successful fly in fly out service for mining workers in July many South West people have taken advantage of the reduced travel time, no longer having to commute to Perth to depart for a Byrnecut mine site.

It is likely the service will be expanded in the future to include other mining companies as they consider the safety of the workers, which is good news for many other fly in fly out workers still having to make the Perth trip.

Noise is often an issue with any airport and the Shire acknowledges the need to increase its consultation and noise consideration efforts with local residents to better manage the future development of the airport for the region.

BUSSELL DIARIES

The Shire of Busselton recently formed part of a consortia led by the State Library of Western Australia in the purchase of a collection of about 10 original diaries of the Bussell family. The diaries, from the deceased estate of Dr Ian McGill, form an important part of the State's and in particular Busselton's history.

Due to the poor physical condition of these valuable documents the State Library will undertake delicate conservation and translation work required and produce facsimile copies for public access. The original documents will be housed appropriately at the State Library to ensure their preservation.

The people of the Shire of Busselton will be the first community to be provided with a readable and readily viewable version of what is sure to provide another fascinating snapshot of life in Busselton in the very early days of our settlement. It is anticipated that eventually copies will be provided to school libraries in the Shire and to the Local History community.

LIVING COLOUR - STRENGTHENING THE CHARACTER OF THE BUSSELTON TOWNSITE

Council recently endorsed the Busselton Town Centre Colour and Materials Palette to help guide, strengthen and promote the local distinctiveness of the Busselton Town Centre.

The palette will now be used by the Shire in its maintenance and painting of all new and existing Shire buildings and townscape works to encourage a unified theme.

Shire planning staff will also recommend the palette as a guide to applicants for developments within the CBD.

The palette was developed by Urban Designer/Planner Chris Antill and designer Sally Malone, in conjunction with the Busselton 2020 Project Group, with the aim of creating an identifiable character and vibrancy for the Central Business District. [Read more...](#) [View the Colour Palette here](#)

LAYMAN ROAD DEVIATION

The Shire of Busselton wish to advise that as of 22nd September 2007, all traffic will be diverted onto the new Layman Road. This road skirts the southern boundary of the new Port Geographe subdivision. [View diagram of the deviation here..](#)

THE FIGHT AGAINST MOZZIES

The Shire's of Busselton and Capel have taken up the fight against mosquitoes with aerial treatments to control mosquitoes which commenced on Thursday 13th September following the Department of Health's warning of the potential for increased risk of Ross River virus in the South West this season.

Busselton's Environmental Services Manager, Alison Edmunds said that the most environmentally sound and effective mosquito control identified for Busselton and Capel is to control mosquitoes in the larval stage, before they become biting adults."

"Treatment of larval mosquitoes relies on a number of factors to be effective. The helicopter larviciding program will occur as environmental conditions and the timing of larval mosquito development in the breeding sites are optimal for effective treatment". [Read more...](#)

SCHOOL ENTRIES IN CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Congratulations to the nine local schools that took part in the Shire's local government week promotion, aimed at raising awareness amongst primary school children about local government.

Many outstanding entries were received and will be displayed at the Busselton and Dunsborough Libraries.

Students were asked to design a Christmas card for the Shire of Busselton with a local theme. Participating schools received \$250 and the students submitting the four winning entries will receive a \$50 book voucher.

The winning designs will be used as the artwork for the Shire's corporate Christmas cards and a range of other publications.

Congratulations to the winners:

Megan Bonser 11 Years Geographe Primary School

Isaac Western 7 Years Vasse Primary School

Amy Van Niekerk 6 Years Cornerstone Christian College

Jacques Audet 10 Years Yallingup Steiner School

[View the full story and winning entries here...](#)

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