

# Council for the Community

Community Information for the Shire of Busselton

First published March 4, 2009

## CUPPA WITH A COUNCILLOR

"Cuppa with a Councillor" is an informal and relaxing way to get to know your councillors at the Shire of Busselton.

Come and chat with your councillors about issues that concern you, or simply get to know the people that represent you. Two different councillors will be available every month.

"Cuppa with a Councillor" is held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Busselton Library between 11am – 12 noon. Dunsborough Library sessions will be held every three months between 11am – 12 noon.

The next session will be held with Councillor David Binks & Councillor Don Hanran-Smith on Tuesday, 7 April 2009 at the Dunsborough Library between 11am – 12 noon.

Councillors attending subject to change without notice.



## Living With Western Ringtail Possums In The South West

Western ringtail possums may cause some inconvenience in roofs, however it is possible to minimise the impact possums have on your house.

If you have possums in your roof just removing them will not solve the long term problem as it will only leave a vacant, possum smelling roof space, ready for another possum to take up residence.

There is also a problem with relocating possums as studies have shown relocated possums seldom survive.

Most are killed by foxes or dogs, crossing roads or die of starvation as they are unable to secure vacant territory. The best techniques for deterring possums are outlined below:

- 1) Look for access points during the day - they will often have some fur and staining around them. Look for a hole approximately 2 inches round that will have greasy marks, scratch marks and some fur around it. There may be scratch marks up the wall or a nearby tree.
- 2) Block all potential access points to the roof either at night, or during the day leaving the observed access point open. Materials such as sheet metal, vinyl, wood and wire, with a mesh size smaller than 20mm are useful. The material should be fitted snugly to ensure the possum can not get a claw hold and move the cover off the hole.
- 3) After dusk the possum will leave the roof to feed. At this point you can block the remaining access point.
- 4) Wash the access point/hole and wall with disinfectant once the hole has been covered up so that it takes the scent away and the possum does not come back to that point of entry.
- 5) Trim back overhanging branches as well as trees and shrubs against your house to prevent possums climbing on to the roof you may need to.
- 6) Place possum boxes in nearby trees to encourage the possums to set up home elsewhere, rather than your roof.

This article has been written from the Living with Possums Brochure which are available at the Department of Environment and Conservation office in Busselton – 14 Queen Street, Busselton.

**If you require further information or advice please contact the Department of Environment and Conservation - Busselton Office on 9752 5555.**



## UPDATE ON MEELUP BEACH



The Shire of Busselton has recently completed a significant works program aimed at improving the Meelup Beach grassed area, which have included improving the water supply, installing a new reticulation system and improving the soil to re-establish a quality grassed area.

Terracottem, a soil improver/fertilizer and conditioner, which also increases water retention was used and required the area to be ploughed or blended into the existing soils, which has made the grassed area look unsightly.

To deal with this, a grass reseeding program will be completed by mid March.

Additionally, as there is no power at Meelup Beach to control the reticulation system, a solar powered unit has also been installed.

Oliver Darby, Director for Community Infrastructure said, "As with anything that requires improvement, there will be a point where works are required to be 'opened', which results in inconvenience and sometimes an unsightly appearance, but the final outcome will be a piece of Public Open Space that is much better than was there before, with a sustainable automatic reticulation system that which will improve the overall standard of the Meelup Beach area."

"It is anticipated that one complete growing season will be required to re-establish the area with good results anticipated by this coming October", Mr Darby said.

## 2009 Western Australian Citizen of the Year Awards

The Western Australian Citizen of the Year Awards were inaugurated in 1972 to recognise the achievements, commitment, exemplary service and contribution of remarkable Western Australians and dedicated service organisations.

Citizen of the Year Awards will be presented in ten categories:

**Arts, Culture and Entertainment, Community Service,**

**The Governor's Awards for Regional Development; Industry & Commerce, The Professions, Sport, Youth Arts, Indigenous Leadership, and the Gold Swan Award service organisations.**

For further information on the Western Australian Citizen of the Year Awards or to obtain nomination forms please contact Celebrate WA on telephone 9481 8066, facsimile 9481 8077 or email: [celebratewa@celebratewa.com.au](mailto:celebratewa@celebratewa.com.au)

Nominations can also be accessed online at [www.celebratewa.com.au](http://www.celebratewa.com.au)

**Nominations close April 2.**

## Use of Recreational Sports Grounds - Winter 2009

Applications are invited from clubs requiring the use of Council reserves during the 2009 winter season (1 April 2009 - 1 October 2009).

Application forms are available from the Council Offices, website [www.busselton.wa.gov.au](http://www.busselton.wa.gov.au), Geographe Leisure Centre, Naturaliste Community Centre or by contacting **Kate Meggitt - 08 9781 0383** or email [katherine.meggitt@busselton.wa.gov.au](mailto:katherine.meggitt@busselton.wa.gov.au).

Completed applications must be returned **no later than 4.00pm, Friday, 13 March 2009.**

From the applications received, a ground usage will be scheduled and ground hire charges raised.

GST will be proportionally applied to all ground usage within the Shire.

## COLLECTION OF RUBBISH BINS

The public is reminded that **ALL** rubbish bins should be presented for collection by 6am for the start of the route collection run. Drivers cannot return to pick up bins that are presented after the truck has been.

## Community and Sporting Groups - Are Your Details in the Community Directory Correct?



The 2009/2010 Shire of Busselton Community Directory is currently being compiled and is scheduled for reprinting for distribution mid year.

As a service to the community, details of Community & Sporting Groups are listed in the Directory free of charge. To ensure that the details are correct when the Directory is reprinted, it would be appreciated if those not for profit groups listed, or those that wish for an entry to be included, complete the form on page 49 of the 2008/2009 Community Directory.

Completed forms can be dropped off at the Shire of Busselton Administration offices, Southern Drive, Busselton or posted to Locked Bag 1, Busselton WA 6280.

## BUSSELTON SPECIAL SERIES NUMBER PLATE

The Shire has 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, contact the Shire's Customer Service Centre in Southern Drive, Busselton on 9781 0444.

Plates cost \$405. Owners of the old BSN special series plate can upgrade their plate to the new look, still retaining their number by contacting the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.



## LOST YOUR PLOT COMPETITION

The Shire of Busselton is giving away a plot in the ever growing Community Garden. The use of the plot is for 12 months and any School or Community Group can write to us for your chance to win!

How to enter: In 25 words or less tell us why your school or group deserves to win a plot for 12 months.

Please submit your entry to Helena Webb at [helena.webb@busselton.wa.gov.au](mailto:helena.webb@busselton.wa.gov.au) or Locked Bag 1, Busselton WA 6280. **Entries close 30 April 2009. Winner announced in the Council for Community.**



**Andrew Macnish, Chief Executive Officer**  
**Customer Service 9781 0444**  
**[www.busselton.wa.gov.au](http://www.busselton.wa.gov.au)**

