



Shire of Busselton E-News November/December 2006 (Also visit: www.busselton.wa.gov.au)

MESSAGE FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

As 2006 draws to a close I must say that it has been an exciting and challenging period for the Shire of Busselton. We've seen the introduction of our new Strategic Plan, which will guide our efforts for the next 5 years; planning for the Jetty rebuild project which brought with it a range of opportunities for revitalising the Busselton foreshore area and creating valuable linkages with our CBD-along with many other important projects.

Community input is essential in guiding Council to make informed decisions about these and other projects. I would like to thank everyone that provided valuable input over a range of issues during the year and I look forward to hearing your views in 2007.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kevin Douglas
Shire President

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SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

Proposed Location of New Busselton Hospital - 29 November 2006

Residents and ratepayers of the Shire of Busselton are advised that a Special Meeting of Electors will be held at the Busselton Baptist Community Centre, Cnr Queen Elizabeth Avenue and Recreation Drive, Busselton, on Wednesday, 29 November 2006, commencing at 5.30 pm. Business of the Meeting:

- It was proposed by 142 residents and ratepayers requesting the meeting that it moves to request the Council to hold a referendum on the issue of the proposed location of the new Busselton Hospital.

All residents and ratepayers are invited to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

Residents and ratepayers are advised that the annual meeting of electors convened to discuss the annual report and other matters of interest in the community will not be held in December as is the usual practice of the Shire of Busselton.

There has been a delay in the anticipated receipt of the auditor's report for the previous financial year which has in turn delayed the printing of the annual report. The required annual meeting of electors will be held on a date determined by the Council following receipt of the auditor's report. The meeting is likely to be held in January. Details of the meeting can be obtained by contacting the Shire's Governance Manager, Lynley Rich, on 9781 0459 or lynleyr@busselton.wa.gov.au.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council's last meeting for 2006 will be held on 13th December 2006, resuming on 24th January, 2007. The agendas and minutes of Council's meetings are available on the Shire's website at: <http://www.busselton.wa.gov.au/indexpages/indexagendaminutes.htm>

EMERGENCY RISK MANAGEMENT SURVEY

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The Busselton Local Emergency Committee would like to thank those members of the public that took the time and showed a community interest in responding to the Emergency Risk Management Survey that was carried out in late September and early October. The community was asked to identify and rank the likelihood of hazards, natural and man-made, that could have an impact on their safety and well-being.

The Survey was the first stage of a project wholly funded by the Federal Government body, Emergency Management Australia, to enable the Shire of Busselton to develop and implement strategies to manage and reduce emergency related risks to the community.

The number of responses to the Survey was pleasing with a total of 130 replies being received. The information from all responses indicates that the impact of a Severe Storm is of the highest concern, followed by Rural Fire, Flood, Road Transport Emergency, Urban Fire, Cyclone, Marine Transport, Hazardous Chemical Spillage, Earthquake and Air Transport Emergency.

An Emergency Risk Management Sub-committee is now analysing and evaluating the information to produce a comprehensive range of options and strategies to reduce the potential for loss of life and property stemming from the impact of a disaster. The Sub-Committee is mindful of the differing geographic and demographic features of the Shire to ensure the vulnerable localities and sections of the community are not overlooked during the process.

The Local Emergency Management Committee and emergency service agencies are acutely aware of the variability and unpredictability of climatic conditions and the potential for disasters and, hence are planning to reduce the harm.

SHIRE PRESIDENT WELCOMES INQUIRY - COMMENDS STAFF

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Shire President, Kevin Douglas has commended Shire staff on their conduct during the Corruption and Crime Commissions (CCC) investigations.

"While the CCC inquiry is welcomed it is inappropriate to comment on the issue at this time. Residents can however be assured that the Shire is working in the best interests of the community" said Councillor Douglas.

"It has been a difficult time for the organisation, however I am pleased to say that due to the fact that the Shire is staffed by professional and hardworking people that deliver good service and value to community, it is and has been business as usual. They are to be commended for their excellent conduct and patience" said Councillor Douglas.

"In fact, given the increasing demands that our significant growth has brought, matters like turn around times for planning issues have improved significantly since 2003. Building licenses issued have increased by 22% in the same timeframe, with 70% being dealt with from start to finish in three days. New programs have been implemented including new mosquito control measures, new library initiatives introduced which have continued to increase membership and usage at two public libraries and significant funding has been secured to improve roads and cycleways, to name but a few" he said.

In the short time since the budget was adopted work has continued on the next stage of the Busselton to Dunsborough dual-use path. A comprehensive risk management audit of playground equipment in the Shire has been conducted which has seen a number of new playgrounds revamped. Townscape works on Dunn Bay Road in Dunsborough have been completed and new footpaths along Naturaliste Terrace have commenced.

"Whatever the outcome these investigations bring, the Shire will be open and transparent about the result of the inquiry, its implications for the organisation and any improvements that are implemented based on the findings" said Councillor Douglas.

In the interim it's business as usual at the Shire of Busselton, with Council continuing to function in the decision making process.

[CHRISTMAS COMPETITION](#)

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The Shire has once again partnered with the Busselton Chamber of Commerce, the Dunsborough Yallingup Chamber of Commerce and local community groups to help everyone get into the Christmas spirit.

Cash prizes are being offered to both residents and business for dressing up their houses and businesses with some Christmas cheer.

Further information will be available from the Shire's website at www.busselton.wa.gov.au and the Community page in the Busselton Dunsborough Mail from 15th November.

[PREMIERS ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS](#)

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The Shire of Busselton invites you to nominate an outstanding individual or group for one of this year's Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards. The awards are presented as a means of recognising the individuals and groups making outstanding contributions to the community through their inspiring actions and dedicated service.

Each year two local citizens and one local community group within the Shire of Busselton will be eligible for the Awards. There are three categories for the awards:

- Award for person under 25 years
- Award for person 25 years and over
- Award for community group or event

Nomination forms are available from the Busselton and Dunsborough Libraries, Geographe Leisure Centre, Naturaliste Community Centre and the Shire Administration Office, or from the 'awards' section of the Australia Day Council of WA website at www.ausdaywa.com.au

Nominations are to be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Busselton, Locked Bag 1, Busselton WA 6280 and close on **November 15, 2006**.

[PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS INVITED-ROAD NAMES FOR SHIRE ROAD NAME RESERVE LIST](#)

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The Shire is seeking submissions from the public for road names for the Shire of Busselton Road Name Reserve List. The criteria for naming of roads are as follows:

Encouraged

- Names with strong local community support
- Descriptive names appropriate to local features
- Names of pioneers, war casualties and historical events connected with an area

Discouraged

- Name duplicated and dual naming within the Shire
- Names of living individuals
- Given and surname combinations, qualified names, double names
- Incongruous, corrupted, unduly cumbersome, obscene, derogatory or discriminating and commercialised names
- Hyphenated words

Throughout the year the Shire requires road names for new and unnamed roads located within the Shire, mainly in rural locations. All submissions must include a rationale (reason for selection) and must follow the above guidelines for road name selection. All road names that are selected by the Shire of Busselton are submitted to Geographic Names Committee for approval.

Persons wishing to make a submission should do so in writing to: Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Busselton, Locked Bag 1, Busselton WA 6280 by close of business 15 November 2006.

JETTY UPDATE

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A Council delegation headed to Canberra in early November to state their case as to why the Federal Government should contribute funds to assist in rebuilding the Busselton Jetty.

Councillors Philippa Reid and Anne Ryan, Economic Development Officer Paul Martin, Trevor Fitzgerald (BJECA) and Matt Walker, General Manager of the Geographe Bay Tourism Association met with the Minister for Tourism to enable her to gain a good understanding and first hand knowledge of the issues, along with other department heads.

"This is the purpose of the visit", said Shire President, Kevin Douglas, "to state our case, gain support and convince them that the Busselton Jetty is worth saving for the benefit of not only the local economy, but also as a national icon."

"We will explain the bigger picture, which is the flow on effects of rebuilding the jetty including revitalising the CBD by creating better linkages between the foreshore and the town, while maintaining the character and feel of our relaxed and friendly environment. Our aim is to balance the economic, environmental and social aspects of the project" said Councillor Douglas.

Discussions are also continuing to have the Minister for Tourism visit the Shire to see the Jetty project first hand.

BUSH FIRE SEASON 2006—2007

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2nd November to 12 May 2007

As this district has only had half of its annual winter rainfall, we can expect that forest and bush land areas will be very dry over the coming six months.

People with homes located within rural residential & rural locations therefore must maintain extreme vigilance and ensure that they clear around their dwellings and sheds if they hope to have any chance of surviving a major bush fire which could occur any time during Spring, Summer or Autumn.

Please remember that there are NO permanent fire brigades within this Shire and your safety depends upon the good will and dedication of a small number of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Fire & Rescue volunteer fire fighters.

Over the past three years the 18 Bush Fire Volunteer Brigades within this Shire have responded to 325 incidents, while our two Fire & Rescue Brigades, on average, respond to over 250 incidents.

COMMERCIAL BIN STICKERS

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To ensure an equitable commercial rubbish collection service for all businesses is in place a list of businesses legitimately paying for rubbish bin collection has been compiled over several months.

All businesses were notified that a sticker system would soon be introduced and were given the opportunity to upgrade their service.

Stickers will start appearing on commercial rubbish bins in November. The stickers are colour-coded, representing the different days of the week.

Those bins without stickers will be advised that they will only be collected up to a certain date. After this date has been reached, only bins with commercial stickers will be picked up from commercial areas.

There is no change to residential collection.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE—FEASIBILITY STUDY

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At a recent meeting of Council it was agreed that an application be made to the Community Cultural Arts Facility Fund seeking a funding contribution for the preparation of a feasibility study that could see a performing arts centre constructed in our shire. The need for a performing arts centre has been identified through both the Cultural Plan (2005) and the draft Leisure Services Plan (2005) and has subsequently been included in the Shire's Strategic Plan 2006 - 2011.

The feasibility study would identify a suitable site, size, technical requirements, programming, management and financial modelling to ensure that the facility is in scale with the needs of the local community and wider sub regional area.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIBRARIES

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The Busselton and Dunsborough Public Libraries introduced *Better Beginnings* in March 2006. Consisting of a series of linked strategies developed to encourage parents to share books and stories with their babies and to establish lifelong links with libraries, the program will be progressively rolled out over the next three years.

As part of the first stage of this program all babies born in the Shire of Busselton now receive a *Better Beginning* toolkit, containing a quality children's book and supporting materials to stimulate reading activities and literacy.

Rhymetime and Baby Storytime Sessions are an important part of the *Better Beginnings* program, promoting libraries as fun, friendly, vibrant and exciting places for babies and toddlers. The Busselton Public Library currently holds "Baby Bounce" sessions on the last Friday of the month at 10.30am. The Dunsborough Library will commence "Baby Bounce" sessions in January 2007.

As part of the *Better Beginnings* program, both libraries will be hosting a series of parent information workshops conducted in partnership with other community agencies covering a variety of topics including speech and language development, play and nutrition. The first parent information days were held at both Libraries in early November.

For further information on this exciting program please contact Patti at the Busselton Public Library on 97541588.

CONGRATULATIONS—GEOCATCH AND THE CAPE TO CAPE CATCHMENT GROUP

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The Shire of Busselton would like to congratulate GeoCatch and the Cape to Cape Catchment Group for taking out the prestigious Murray-Darling Basin Commission Rivercare Award for 2006.

For the past 7 years, GeoCatch and the Catchment Group have developed an extensive river action plan. They've removed stock from waterways, they've stabilised the riverbanks with native vegetation—over 50,000 seedlings have been planted, and established an action plan that has an extensive summary of the condition of the river foreshore and maps showing what has to happen.

This is land care at its best with the environment being the big winner.

Congratulations to everyone involved.

THANK YOU—PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT DONATED

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Evans & Tate recently donated to the Shire a large set of playground equipment. This equipment is being installed at King Street playground and will contribute significantly to the upgrading of this playground.

The donated equipment will be joined by a swing set and will be enclosed by an upgraded soft fall area. The King Street playground was identified in a playground safety audit conducted in June.

A number of other playgrounds within the Shire will also be impacted by findings in the audit.

BUSSELTON BIRD OBSERVATORY AND WETLANDS EXPERIENCE UPDATE

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Since in principle support for siting of a wetlands centre at the New River Site (behind the Peel Terrace Childcare centre) was given by Council in December last year, the Busselton Wetlands Project Team has begun more detailed planning and preparation work to progress the initiative to the next step. Current tasks of the Project Team include preparation of a wetlands enhancement plan for the New River site, a Funding Strategy for development of the Wetlands Centre and a Trails Master Plan for the wetlands.

Funding was received from the Lower Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands Project to develop and implement an enhancement plan for the New River Site. The wetland enhancement plan, including a weed strategy, is in draft form and will be finalised within the next four weeks. In order to capture some of the key weed species this season some weed control has begun.

The Project Team was successful in gaining \$35,000 this year for development of a Trails Master Plan for the Busselton Wetlands. The Shire of Busselton is contributing \$15,000 towards the project. A project brief is being prepared and will be advertised soon, resulting in the development of a master plan that is expected to highlight priority areas for walk trails development, outline the works required to establish them, identify ways in which they could be funded and identify interest groups.

The Funding Strategy will detail an approach to sourcing funding from, and developing partnerships with, State and Federal Governments and other potential sponsors and partnering organizations and will begin the process of generating applications to source funding for the project. It will identify potential clients, businesses and develop business plans which can be used to detail the projected budgets. It will also provide greater confidence to funding bodies and partners in the project that the Wetland Centre will be a viable long term project. A consultant for preparation of the Strategy is currently being selected.

SWBP RESERVE ASSESSMENT PROJECT UPDATE

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Gary McMahon of Ecosystem Services has recently begun the desktop and field components of the Shire of Busselton's Reserve Assessment Project.

The Shire of Busselton received a \$10,000 grant from the West Australian Local Government Association South West Biodiversity Project (SWBP). This money was matched with a further \$10,000 cash contribution by the Shire. The funds are to assess the conservation values and threats of Shire Reserves and prioritise them for management.

The Shire is responsible for managing over 250 reserves covering an area of over 2200 ha. Management plans have been developed for a number of significant reserves which help guide management for over 1000 ha of Shire managed land. Of the remaining reserves, approximately 1000 ha of reserves contain significant ecological values that warrant further detailed investigation and management.

23 Reserves, covering 450 ha, of which 300 ha is vegetated have been identified to be surveyed in detail this year using the Natural Area Initial Assessment (NAIA) templates. The templates were developed by SWBP for use by local governments and community groups in the South West, allowing a detailed local and regional understanding of the values and threats of reserves in the southwest.

The outcomes of the reserve assessment project will include:

- A detailed understanding of the values and threats of each of the reserves assessed.

- A local and regional context of the reserves to aid management.
- Key action plans for the reserves studied. These simple plans will detail priority actions for future management.
- A series of general reserve management guidelines for the Shire. These guidelines will cover a broad range of management principles and examples may include appropriate hygiene management when working to reduce the spread and impact of *Phytophthora dieback*, appropriate fire regime management, and working sensitively in reserves known to contain Western Ringtail Possum habitat.

It is hoped further funding will be available next year to continue the project and undertake assessments of the remaining reserves. For further information, please contact John McKinney at the Shire on 9781 0457.

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