



# Shire of Mt Marshall

— THE SANDALWOOD SHIRE —

28 October 2019

## RESULTS OF PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT ELECTION

Congratulations to Cr Tony Sachse who was elected Shire President for his second consecutive term at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 22 October.

Congratulations also go to Cr Nick Gillett who was elected Deputy Shire President for his second consecutive term.

During the swearing in ceremony for Elected Members we welcomed Cr Brendan Geraghty and Cr Tanya Gibson to Council.

## BUSH FIRE INFORMATION 2019-2020

### Harvest Ban Information

The Shire of Mt Marshall has received no notification from the ABC that they will be broadcasting harvest bans, but will assume that they will be the same as last year.

There will be three tune-in times 10.05am, 12.35pm and 3.05pm. No information has been received regarding different times over the weekend or if they will interrupt the sport.

The deadline to get harvest bans broadcast are 9.45am, 11.45am and 2.45pm. If the deadline is missed they will not be included until the next update.

There will be just one simple announcement saying: *“Due to the risk of fire the following local governments have imposed a ban on harvesting and the use of any equipment that could potentially start a fire”* and then the names of the local authorities. *Continued over page*



## DIARY DATES

### 12 November 2019

Recycling Collection

### 19 November 2019

Ordinary Meeting of Council @ 3:00pm at the Beacon Country Club, Shemeld St, Beacon

## COUNCILLORS

### Cr Tony Sachse

President

P: 9685 1257

crsachse@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

### Cr Nick Gillett

Deputy President

P: 9686 2007

crgillett@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

### Cr Stuart Faulkner

P: 9686 1050

crfaulkner@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

### Cr Leeanne Gobbart

P: 9684 8042

crgobbart@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

### Cr Rachel Kirby

P: 9686 1160

crkirby@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

### Cr Stuart Putt

P: 9686 2078

crputt@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

### Cr Ian Sanders

P: 9685 1213

crsanders@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

## CONTACT US



80 Monger Street, Bencubbin WA 6477 | Phone: 08 9685 1202 | Fax: 08 9685 1299  
Email: admin@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au | www.mtmarshall.wa.gov.au



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Although it will not include “movement of machinery in paddocks ban” please note that all bans in the Shire of Mt Marshall will be “Harvest and Movement of Machinery in Paddocks Bans”

No radio station will broadcast the lifting of a harvest ban, it will be up to individual Shires to use their own methods.

Radiowest will provide a similar service.

The Shire will have , besides radio, three other avenues to announce harvest bans:

**SMS** - if you are not registered for this service please contact the shire office on 96851202 or email [ro@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au](mailto:ro@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au) If you have had new staff commence work for harvest please have them register also.

**Harvest Ban Hotline** – please note that the message bank phone number is **9487 0671**.

**Facebook.**

## Harvest Ban Advice

Please note that the SMS will be the first point of contact with farmers and contractors advising of a ban, followed by the radio and then the message bank hotline. Please give staff time to set up the necessary services before seeking further information.

## Timing of Harvest Bans

To avoid any unnecessary phone calls the shire has implemented the following procedure regards the lifting of Harvest Bans, if the ban has been in place before 11.00am it will be reviewed at 3.00pm (not lifted), if the ban has been in place after 11.00pm it will be lifted at 6.00pm unless conditions deteriorate.

Although local authorities are responsible for the placing of harvest bans, due to the vast area of the shire, farmers must also take some responsibility to ensure they carry out their harvesting operations in a safe and timely manner.

## Activities that are Exempt during a Harvest Ban

An activity that is carried out for the purpose of preventing an immediate and serious risk to the health or safety of a person or livestock, so long as a reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent the activity from creating a bush fire danger. Please note, driving across paddocks to check your livestock is not exempt.

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## Total Fire Bans

Total Fire Bans are declared by DFES when there is the potential of extreme fire weather or when widespread fires are seriously stretching resources. When a Total Fire Ban is declared it prohibits the lighting of any fires in the open air and any activity that may start a fire – including the use of equipment and tools such as welders, grinders, torches or gas cutters.

You can continue farming activities during a Total Fire Ban as long as your local authority has not imposed a Harvest and Movement of Machinery in Paddocks Ban. Total Fire Bans are usually in place for twenty four (24) hours.

## Fire Suppression Equipment

Farmers and harvesting contractors are required to comply with the Bush Fire Regulations of 1954 and in particular the key points below relating to harvesting activities:

- Section 38 – A person shall not operate any harvesting machine or header in any crop during the prohibited burning times or the restricted burning times unless a fire extinguisher is carried on the machine.
- Section 38A(4) – A person shall when required by a local government, provide a plough or other specified machine, appliance or firefighting equipment in or in the vicinity of any land or paddock where harvesting operations are being conducted.

As a minimum requirement the Shire requests that you have on site the following firefighting equipment serviced and readily available at all times during harvest:

- A mobile operational farm firefighting unit comprising of a tank with a minimum capacity of 400 litres, a powered pump, reel hose and nozzle. Keep this unit parked on bare ground, in or near the harvesting area for quick access.

## Other Equipment

**PPE** – if you have not been issued with proban treated overalls through your brigade, the minimum acceptable dress on the fire ground is long sleeved shirt, long trousers, sturdy boots, gloves and a hat. (**No singlets, shorts and thongs**)

## Attendance at Fires

If you attend a fire please report (by CB, Channel 5) or in person to the officer in charge and wear the appropriate PPE. If you do not have the appropriate PPE you will be asked to leave the fire ground by the officer in charge or given an alternative job.

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The officer in charge of the fire is responsible for every ones safety as soon as they step on the fire ground and if someone gets injured or even worse, fatally injured, it is he that is answerable to all questions asked in subsequent investigations.

## Firebreaks

All ratepayers receive a Firebreak Order with their rate notice and to ensure everyone is doing the right thing Shire staff will be carrying out inspections.

Agriculture Land – clear a firebreak consisting of mineral earth, to a width of no less than 3 metres, as close as practical, inside the external boundaries of the property. They must also provide a vertical clearance of 3.5 meters

Town sites – all town site lots within the Shire of Mt Marshall shall be cleared of all debris of an inflammable nature and be maintained free of such material.

During a recent inspection of the towns it is apparent that the same people need to be reminded each year to clean up their blocks. If you need help to clean up your block ,please ask for it, rather than waiting until the weeds are out of control. Thanks to the people who have responded to the recent request they received.

## Bush Fire Control Officers

Unfortunately, due to low attendance, we were unable to complete the required training to appoint further Bush Fire Control Officers recently. The steady decline in numbers is a cause for concern and there is a possibility of more departures next year.

Areas of concern at the moment are Welbungin and Gabbin with a possibility of Tampu, Bencubbin and Beacon becoming areas of concern in the future.

To become a Bush Fire Control Officer you will be provided with the necessary training by DFES staff.

If there are any members of the Beacon VESU who have recently completed their bush fire training it would only mean one (1) more day of training to gain the necessary qualifications to become a Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO). If anyone is interested please give me a call on 0429 851 318 or email [ro@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au](mailto:ro@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au).

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I have arranged for some further firefighter training to be conducted in February, 2020. The BFCO training will be scheduled following this. If you know of anyone who you think could fill this role, please encourage them to register for the training.

Please note that firefighting is no longer considered a male dominated service and females are encouraged to complete the training.

If you feel that you could help your community out by becoming a Bush Fire Control Officer but are a little unsure of the risks involved in fighting fires, please be assured that there are other jobs that you can perform in this role.

## Need to Know Contact Details

Shire Office	96 851 202	CB 5
Damian Tomas	0429 010 574	CB 38
Garry Huckstep	0428 864 050	CB 25
Jack Walker	0429 851 318	CB 5
Brett Clark	0427 486 012	CB 12
John Dunne	0427 861 045	CB 34
Tim Cashmore	0427 926 684	CB 22
Terry Gobbart	0428 848 042	
Noel Miguel	0427 966 725	
Mark Jeffries	0439 851 327	
Tony Sachse	0429 851 257	
Steve Kett	0488 939 810	

## Further Information

If you require any further information please contact the Shire office, your local Bush Fire Control Officer or visit the DFES website.

Jack Walker  
Bush Fire Control Officer







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## **BUSH FIRE ACT 1954 PROHIBITED BURNING TIME**

All burning is prohibited in the Shire of Mt Marshall from Friday 1 November 2019 to Friday 31 January 2020. The Restricted Burning time will then continue until Saturday 15 March 2020.

Burning which may be done during the prohibited burning time:

### **Burning to Protect a Dwelling / House**

Throughout the whole of the prohibited burning times, a fire break may be burnt to protect a dwelling house or other building, or a stack of produce. All the conditions of section 18 of the Bush Fires Act must be complied with including obtaining a permit for the burning. The burning may be carried out only between the hours of 4 o'clock in the afternoon and midnight of the same day as is specified in the permit, and within two plough or spade breaks of which the outer break is not more than 100 metres from the property to be protected.

### **Burning of Garden Refuse and Rubbish**

Garden refuse and rubbish may be burnt at any time, day or night, in a properly constructed incinerator designed to prevent the escape of sparks or burning material.

Garden refuse and rubbish burnt on the ground may be burnt only between the hours of 6 o'clock in the evening and 11 o'clock of the same day and must be completely extinguished no later than midnight on that day.

### **Firebreaks**

All landholders are reminded of the requirements relating to the provision of firebreaks. If your firebreaks do not comply with the Shire's Fire Break Order it may affect your insurance. Town site residents who have not complied will have received a letter from the Shire recently.

If you require any further information please contact the Shire Office or your local Bush Fire Control Officer

**TAKE CARE AND HELP TO PREVENT BUSH FIRES**