



Shire of Mt Marshall

— THE SANDALWOOD SHIRE —

February 2023

DIARY DATES

21 March 2023

Ordinary Meeting of Council @
3pm in Council Chambers, 71
Monger St, Bencubbin

COUNCILLORS

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Welcome to the first Shire newsletter of 2023. This year will see some changes around the production of our newsletter with the main one being how often the newsletter is produced. While we will still keep you updated with any pressing information and impromptu changes via our Facebook page and website, this newsletter will only be produced one a month.

The newsletter will be an overview of activities that have occurred throughout the month, upcoming events and information from our Council meetings.

We hope this refreshed style of delivery keeps our community informed and engaged and most importantly presents what is happening in the Shire in an enjoyable to read format.

Staff Update

We welcome back Cheyenne Bland from maternity leave this month and her return to her role as Coordinator of the Little Bees service will make for some happy little faces. You can read about our new works staff in the works report section of the newsletter.

CONTACT US



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Bushfire Information



Bushfire Act 1954

Restricted Burning Period

All burning is Restricted in the Shire of Mt Marshall from Wednesday 1 March 2023 to Friday 31 March 2023. During this time a Permit to Burn is required.

Farmers are advised that Permits will only be issued on a daily basis and are reminded that certain conditions are endorsed on the Permit. One important condition is that burning cannot be carried out on the day if a Very High, Extreme or above Fire Danger has been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Please check BOM website for further information or contact your nearest Bush Fire Control Officer. Permits can be issued by some staff at the Shire office and permit holders are also reminded to read the "Obligations of the permit holder" prior to burning.

Burning of Garden Refuse and Rubbish

As of 1 March 2023 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.

If you are considering burning garden refuse please ensure that you do not leave the fire unattended and have running water available.

Ben McKay
Chief Executive Officer



Council Meeting Outcomes



The first Council meeting for 2023 was held on 14 February and below is a brief overview of some of the Council decisions made at this meeting.

Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

The LEMC asked Council to endorse a change in frequency of meetings held from four (4) per year to three (3) per year to reduce work load on Committee members. Also considered was the reviewed Local Emergency Management Arrangements. Council endorsed all items as requested and the updated Arrangements will be available on the Shire website after consideration and approval by the District and State Emergency Management Committees.

Conduct of 2023 Ordinary Local Government Elections

The 2023 Ordinary Local Government Elections are being held in October and Council resolved to once again have the Electoral Commissioner conduct the Election using the postal method.

Amendment to Policy CS.2.1 Citizen of the Year Award

Policy CS.2.1 Citizen of the Year Award provides guidelines to Council when selecting a recipient for the annual Citizen of the Year Award and the amendment endorsed at the February meeting will eliminate Elected Members from being able to nominate candidates or being nominated themselves.

Planning Decisions

Council considered two planning and development items regarding land in Gabbin. One item dealt with land which is the proposed site of new Gabbin bush fire facilities and the decision was made to continue working with Dept of Planning, Lands & Heritage (DPLH) to meet this objective. The other item dealt with an application for subdivision of farm land to which Council had no objections, subject to various conditions.

Projects Update



As we move into the second half of the financial year some of this years major capital projects are moving forward. We have new cabins ordered for the Bencubbin and Beacon Caravan Parks and a camp kitchen facility for the Beacon Caravan Park. We hope these will be operational by June 2023. We can happily report that the long awaited power upgrades needed for the additional facilities at the Beacon Caravan Park have been scheduled to take place over the coming weeks.

We are currently talking with contractors in regards to the Beacon Community Park and we will provide an update at a later date on when site works will begin.



The Wialki Golf Club building now has an undercover outdoor area with roller server doors for members to be able to enjoy the beautiful outside surrounds of the clubhouse.

Consultation has taken place with locals and the Facility and Services Committee in regards to a concept design for the Beacon War Memorial to improve the functionality and aesthetics of this area. Lucas Street will also have some additional footpaths constructed over the coming months. These projects were both identified as part of the Beacon Streetscape Plan.

Works Report



Construction Crew

The budgeted works on Beacon-Back Rd have been completed and the construction crew is now getting close to completing a section of Andrews Tank Rd. Sealing works will restart on 20 March and will include three sections of Koorda-Bullfinch Rd, one section of Bencubbin-Beacon Rd and the completion of the newly constructed works along Koorda-Bullfinch Rd, Burakin-Wialki Rd and Scotsman Rd.

We welcome a new Plant Operator, Malcolm Garlett to the team and having a full compliment of staff will help the delivery of budgeted works.

Please drive carefully around road works especially when sealing is happening later in the month.

Maintenance Crew

Maintenance staff have been erecting new signs, repairing old signs and patching as part of their maintenance schedule,



Parks and Gardens

We welcome two new staff to our Parks and Gardens team in Bencubbin and they have been hard at work catching up on tidying the townsite, mowing, snipping and rubbish removal. Imelda Adamson Agars and Sean Munns both reside in Beacon and their hard work is already evident in the community . In Beacon, Jim has been cleaning up the townsite and maintaining the oval and grassed areas in the warm months. Unfortunately problems with the pump at the oval continue so a temporary smaller pump is helping maintain the condition of the oval, although coverage is not ideal.

Works Report



Maintenance Grading

Beacon North grading has been operating smoothly since Christmas and staff are adhering to normal schedules.

Bencubbin West grading is operating reasonably well with Mandiga-Marindo Rd and other roads in between having a light maintenance grade. Staff will move to Gabbin-Cleary Rd soon.

Bencubbin East will hopefully be helped by the addition of another grader operator soon with the position currently advertised. A knowledgeable operator will complete our maintenance grading team.

Plant and Equipment

The Shire has purchased a Bobcat machine that includes a forestry mulcher attachment. This plant will be better suited than graders when tidying up fallen trees etc on road verges within the Shire. We are hoping to take delivery over the next week or two.



Events and Tourism



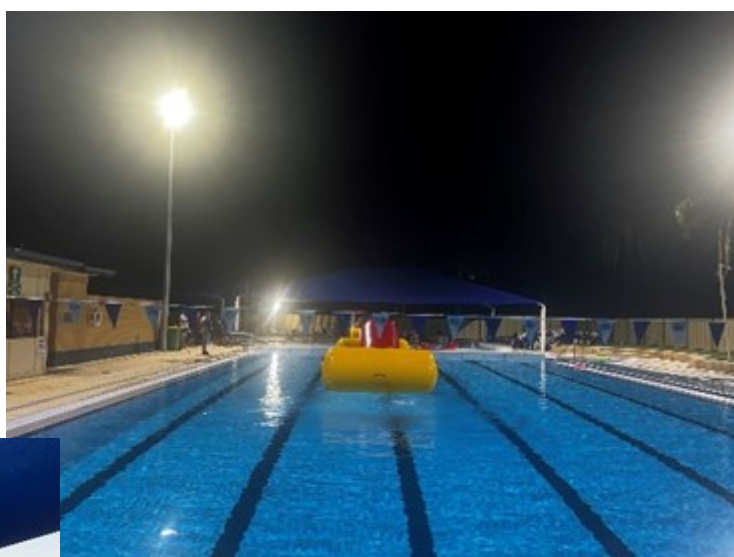
It has been a busy start to the year for our events team. A lovely barbeque breakfast cooked by the Bencubbin and Districts Lions Club kicked off the Australia Day celebrations in the Shire. The inflatable dodge ball was a hit amongst the kids. In the evening a barbeque was held at the Beacon Recreation Complex. With the storms in the distance and some wind rolling in, unfortunately the inflatables had to come down, however Sophie Jane kept the crowd entertained into the evening.



Citizen of the Year 2023

Mrs Sharon Kett

Approximately 83 people attended this years Thank a Volunteer Barbeque and Night Swim held at the Pool in early February. Thank you to the Bencubbin Community Resource Centre for partnering with us once again on this event.



Events and Tourism



The 24th of February saw the long awaited Men of the Wheatbelt event. It was a wonderful night for the 70 guests who came together to listen to Andy Pitway, Matthew Pavlich of the Fremantle Dockers and Glen Dunkerton over a two course meal. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. A huge thank you to the Wheatbelt Suicide Prevention Program who funded the event and the Bencubbin Community Resource Centre who partnered with the Shire to facilitate the evening.



The following morning eleven keen swimmers took to the water to take on the Virtual Swim to Rottnest Challenge. The event was facilitated by Dave Tapscott and Craig Angus who have worked with the Bencubbin Community Resource Centre and the Shire of Mt Marshall to make the morning happen. Well done to



the team who participated in completing the 19.7 kilometer journey (that's 788 laps of the Mt Marshall Pool).

Monger St Upgrade



Overview

Redevelopment of Monger Street has been funded through the Regional Local Community Infrastructure Program. The works will include the removal of the centre islands, new parking spaces and resurfacing of the street.

Why is this work taking place?

This project will provide a critical response to safety concerns within the townsite. The main road currently has a design which includes islands in the middle of the road as well as other intrusions. This has been identified as being as unsafe for a variety of users including pedestrians, tourist traffic and trucks and oversized vehicles.

Affected residents and business owners will be contacted prior to commencement of these works. All road closures will be communicated on our website, social media and local newspapers. Local businesses and residences to be notified prior to work commencing with any interruptions to be communicated to those affected as required.

Timeline

13th – 15th March: Contractor to commence demolition work and set up traffic management.

15th – 17th March: Contractor to proceed with footpath repairs and preparation for asphalt to commence.

20th – 24th March: Asphalt to be laid.

*Road line marking time frame to be confirmed.

Contact: Aaron Wootton 0499 851 111

Plans of the redevelopment can be viewed on the Shire's website:

www.mtmarshall.wa.gov.au/news