



Shire of Mt Marshall

— THE SANDALWOOD SHIRE —

11 November 2019

PRESIDENT TONY SACHSE'S SPEECH — BEACON AIRSTRIP OFFICIAL OPENING

Welcome.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Hon Darren West MLC – Member for the Agricultural Region, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade.

Hon Laurie Graham MLC - Member for the Agricultural Region

Hon Mia Davies – Leader of the Nationals WA and Member for the Central Wheatbelt

Mr Peter Geraghty – Co-ordinator St John Ambulance (Kununoppin sub centre) and Freeman of the Shire of Mt Marshall

Mr Noel Miguel – Captain Beacon Volunteer Emergency Services Unit (apology) and

Mr Brandon Lancaster – Vice Captain Volunteer Emergency Services Unit

Sergeant David Johnstone – Officer in Charge Bencubbin Police Station

Dr Brian Walker – Doctor Kununoppin Medical Practice

Mrs Michelle Kirby – President Beacon Silver Chain Committee

Councillor Jeff Seaby – Shire of Mukinbudin

Fellow and past Councillors of the Shire of Mt Marshall

Volunteers

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DIARY DATES

19 November 2019

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

26 November 2019

Recycling Collection

COUNCILLORS

Cr Tony Sachse

President

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Around four years ago the Shire of Mt Marshall decided to investigate the possibility of upgrading the Beacon airstrip to Royal Flying Doctor standards including lighting to allow night take off and landings, weather permitting. There had been occasions where such a facility would have enhanced the ability of emergency services to deal with medical emergencies. It had been identified that more timely and efficient patient transfers would be very desirable, not only for the patients themselves but with a flow on benefit being a potential reduction in long road trips by St John Ambulance Staff, who are mostly volunteers. Volunteer participation within the Shire of Mt Marshall has been excellent with recent national census figures recording volunteer percentage as one of the highest in Australia. However, the workload can be very high and this upgrade will undoubtedly help address that.

The Shire then undertook planning, costing, an engineering assessment and consultation. Support was received from the Royal Flying Doctor Service and St John Ambulance. Grant requests were made to the Australian Federal Government under the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program and the Government of Western Australia Regional Airstrip Development Scheme. Ultimately both these grants were successful and a budget of around \$400K was possible for the upgrade. This was split three ways with roughly equal amounts from the State Government, Federal Government and the Shire of Mt Marshall.



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The upgrade contract was awarded to WCP Civil, and was overseen by Aerodrome Management Services (AMS). Groundworks took place to meet the necessary specifications to RFDS standards. Perimeter fencing and associated gates were also installed. Solar powered airstrip lighting with battery backup, which has both manual and pilot activated lighting switching capability has been used. This means that flight crew are able to switch on the lights independently, should that be necessary.



The Shire of Mt Marshall would like to thank both the Government of Western Australia and the Australian Federal Government for their financial contributions to enable this upgrade to take place. Thanks also to WCP Civil and AMS for their expertise in undertaking the upgrade works. Special thanks to the Staff of the Shire of Mt Marshall, led by Chief Executive Officer John Nuttall, for all the planning and research, grant submissions, communication with those associated with the works, and staff with direct involvement in the upgrade. Whilst the scope of works under the funding arrangements has been completed, the Shire has also included the construction of a disability access toilet for patients, air crew, emergency services personal, and other aviation visitors in the 2019/20 budget. This facility should be completed in the near future.

Having RFDS can be a game changer for patient outcomes. Indeed, every minute counts, but with RFDS capability, those minutes and hours can be drastically reduced for those living in remote and regional Australia.

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Receiving urgent and timely medical care cannot be understated. Since the upgrade took place there have been some daylight RDFS flights into the airstrip. By all accounts pilots have reported favourably on the airstrip's upgrade works. No doubt many flights will continue over time, resulting in a much-improved transfer of patients. As well as all of the benefits for emergency services, the upgrade will also be advantageous with private flights for both recreation and business, and charter flights, in the future.

Before we ask Hon Darren West MLC to officially open the airstrip upgrade, we would like to ask Peter Geraghty from St John's Ambulance to say a few words. As well as heading the operations of the Kununoppin Sub Branch of SJA, Peter is a member of the Shire of Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee, and his input on this committee has been extensive.

Peter Geraghty speaks.....

Thank you very much Peter. Please pass on our thanks to all of the St John Ambulance staff and volunteers for their continued contribution towards the welfare of those within the Shire of Mt Marshall. At the conclusion of the opening we will travel back to the Beacon Complex for morning tea. We look forward to seeing you all there. We now have much pleasure in asking the Hon Darren West MLC to officially open the Beacon Airstrip Upgrade.

DOG AND CAT REGISTRATIONS NOW OVERDUE

Your dog and cat registrations were due on 31 October and should you choose not to keep your registrations up to date our contract Ranger may pay you a visit to give you a friendly reminder of your obligations under the relevant legislation when owning a dog or cat.

Renewing your registration can be done over the phone, or in person at the Shire office.

Please remember to let us know if one of your fur family are no longer with us so we can update our records.





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BUSH FIRE INFORMATION 2019-2020

Harvest Ban Information

The Shire of Mt Marshall has now received notification from the ABC that they will be broadcasting harvest bans as in previous years.

There will be three tune-in times 10.05am, 12.35pm and 2.05pm. On weekends the times will be 12:35pm and 2:05pm.

The deadline for the Shire to get our harvest bans broadcast are 9.45am, 12.15am and 1.45pm. 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.

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 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.

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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 11.00am 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.

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.

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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.

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.

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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.

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.

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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 848042	
Noel Miguel	0427 966725	
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



RATES INSTALMENT DUE

If you have chosen to pay your rates using the instalment option, please remember that the 2nd instalment is due on Wednesday 27 November.





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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