

Shire President's Report



After over seven decades of serving our community and our community supporting them, the NAB bank has given notice that the retail service that they provide to our residents will cease on the 17th of November. Despite requests from Council and many others to reverse their decision, the closure will take place and continues a trend that has seen many banks withdraw from not only regional and rural areas, but also metropolitan suburbs. As technology has improved and has been more accepted for banking, the statistics provided by the bank has shown a decrease in visitation. This has been a difficult period for those that still rely on face-to-face service to do their personal banking and NAB has

assured customers that Australia Post will be able to adequately deal with the members of the community that need personal service. We sincerely hope this will be the case and from our last engagement with the bank, they were optimistic that the ATM service would remain with negotiations with the current landlord ongoing. I thank everyone that attended the town meeting regarding the bank closure and to those who have committed to forming a working group to investigate options going forward for our community.

Nominations for Council closed on the 7th of September and conclude with five very high-quality nominations. I would like to congratulate Cr Laurie Snell who has decided to retire from Council after 12 years in the role and thank her for her dedication and commitment to the Shire. Laurie has been a diligent Councillor who has always represented Council on various committees with a high degree of fairness and openness. Her vast knowledge and experience will be missed, and our Council wishes

her the very best as she steps away from serving in Local Government. Over the coming months, ratepayers and residents will receive postal voting ballots and I encourage everyone that is able to vote to spend a few moments reading the candidates profiles and voting in the upcoming election.

One of the cornerstones of our community is our aged care facility. Quambie Park continues to deliver a high quality of care and service to those in our local area that need support in their home through to residential high care. This organisation carries on 24 hours a day, every day of the year and has so far 38 years. It has been home to some amazing identities and has been well served by very capable and caring staff. Recently Quambie Park was reaccredited to provide aged care services until the next comprehensive audit in four years. This measurement of performance takes in all aspects of the organisation and takes a significant amount of time and resources to complete. Congratulations to CEO

Sharon James and all the wonderful staff who provide such a valuable service to our aged community.

Council was delighted recently to finally dedicate four Queen Elizabeth roses on the anniversary of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. A special thank you to our Works and Services crew who created a devoted area for the roses and installed some natural local rock to enhance the garden bed.

An incredibly special occasion in September was the Birthday of Mr John Lay. John celebrated reaching the age of one hundred and was joined by many visitors over a few days to congratulate him. The staff at Quambie had set out his messages in a lovely album which included letters from King Charles, Prime Minister Albanese, State and Federal Governors General and the Premier. Our Local Member Mrs Robyn Clarke hand delivered a dedicated framed recognition for his birthday. Well done, John.

-Cr Mike Walmsley, Shire President

Latest News & Updates

THE SCARP & NORTHERN JARRAH FOREST - WAROONA

The Scarp & Northern Jarrah Forest is an important cultural and ecological landmark for the whole community. It is again under pressure from a new applicant seeking to gain access to conduct mining exploration activities: **EXPLORATION LICENCE E70/6523 BY ACCESS AUSTRALIA MINING PTY LTD.**

These activities can include drilling and scraping, as well as using bulldozers to clear the forest for tracks, site camps and drilling locations. Up to 1000 tons of material could be removed and applicants can apply for more. Exploration and subsequent mining activities can spread dieback, leave large pits and denuded tracts of land, as well as impact rare flora and habitat needed by endangered species. There is growing empirical evidence

to suggest, that current rehabilitation practices, are failing in the Northern Jarrah Forrest, and threatening the ecosystems within it, this matter is being investigated. Further research is being undertaken.

In response the Shire of Waroona has lodged objections against the exploration application via – **“REQUEST TO TERMINATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 111A OF THE MINING ACT 1978 (WA)”**. This request is made on the basis that on reasonable grounds in the public interest that: (a) the land the subject of the Application should not be disturbed; and (b) further and separately, the Application should not be granted in any event. As the application impacts 18,913 hectares of land, which will potentially include freehold land,

State Forest Reserves and various crown reserves, catchments, notified Aboriginal heritage survey areas and special land designations. Such as our water catchments. In addition, the Scarp is also of high cultural and heritage significance to local Bindjareb people and plays a key role in Noongar creation stories.

... the *“Scarp is said to represent the body of the Wagyl, which meandered over the land creating the curves and contours of the hills and gullies. The being is strongly associated with rivers, lakes ... and is [believed] to reside deep beneath springs.”*

The Shire of Waroona’s **Strategic Community Plan 2020 – 2030**, (p. 17) developed in consultation with the

whole community, and reflective of our local planning framework, contains objectives to protect Our Environment:

“To continually care for, protect and enhance our environment for the generations to come.”

Objective 3.1 Protect and enhance our existing natural assets, waterways, bushland and biodiversity.

Concerned citizens and groups can write to:
The Hon. Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Energy, Hydrogen Industry, Industrial Relations
9th Floor, Dumas House,
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005
minister.johnston@dpc.wa.gov.au

Upcoming Events

Troutfest

Date: Saturday, 21 October 2023
Time: 10am-1pm
Location: Drakesbrook Weir, Waroona

September Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday 26th September 2023
Time: 4pm onwards
Location: Shire of Waroona Administration Office – Council Chamber
For more details on any of our events, please visit www.waroona.wa.gov.au/events or call 9733 7800.



RECEIVE YOUR RATE NOTICE ELECTRONICALLY!

You can now register with the Shire of Waroona to receive your Rate Notices via email. This not only reduces the use of paper

significantly but ensures you never miss a bill again!
By signing up, you can now receive Rate Notices, Instalment

Notices, Final Notices, and any other important information relating to your rates and property in the Shire of Waroona directly to your email.

For more information or to register please visit www.erateswa.com/Waroona/ or visit the Shire of Waroona website and Facebook Page.

SHIRE OF WAROONA – BEST PRACTICE TOP 20 ENTITY OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS

Each year the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) releases a “Financial Audit Results” report that summarises the results of the most recent review. Of the 148 local government entities that are subject to an OAG audit 146 annual audits were completed. For the first time, the OAG are recognizing entities who have demonstrated best practice in financial reporting in the sector. This

recognition is consistent with what the OAG report for the State and tertiary sectors. The best practice assessment criteria included:

- good quality financial reports submitted for audit within the agreed timeframe and supported by reliable working papers.
- management resolution of accounting standards and presentation issues

• availability of key staff during the audit process

The quality of financial reporting is measured against five criteria:

- timeliness of financial statements
- quality of financial statements and notes
- quality of working papers
- resolution of accounting issues
- availability of key staff.

We are very pleased to note that the Shire of Waroona has made the **Best Practice Top 20 Entities** list. This is a huge achievement for our finance team and the Shire as a whole. We are extremely pleased to see the team recognized for best practice financial management of the Shires assets. It is also noted that of the 20 local governments recognized, 17 of them were rural local governments.

WAROONA TROUTFEST 2023

Reel in the Fun on 21 October at Drakesbrook Weir

The annual Waroona Troutfest is back, and it promises a fantastic day of fishing, family fun, and community spirit at Drakesbrook Weir! Mark your calendars for Saturday, 21 October 2023, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

About Waroona Troutfest 2023

Waroona Troutfest is a loved community event that brings families and freshwater fishing fans together to celebrate the annual Waroona trout release. This free, family-friendly festival takes place against the picturesque backdrop of Drakesbrook Weir.

Event Highlights

Trout Release: Join us at 10am as we release trout into the Drakesbrook Weir. It's a unique opportunity for the whole family to get involved and contribute to the local ecosystem. Old clothes or

bathers are required – you will get wet!
Fishing License-Free Event: Good news for all fishing enthusiasts - Waroona Troutfest 2023 is a fishing license-free event. This means you can cast your line without the need for a freshwater fishing license, making it even more accessible for everyone.

Free Recfishwest Fishing Clinic: Don't miss the opportunity to attend the free Recfishwest Fishing Clinic. Learn from the experts and enhance your freshwater fishing skills.

Chas Riegert's Casting Competition: Join Chas Riegert for a casting clinic and competition where you can learn the art of casting. Whether you're a beginner or looking to improve your technique, Chas will be there to teach and guide you.

Fly-Fishing Lessons: Learn the art of fly-fishing with guidance from experts from the WA Trout Freshwater Angling Association. Whether you're a beginner or experienced, there's

always something new to discover.

Accessible Fishing Stations: Fishability will provide accessible fishing stations, ensuring that everyone can participate and enjoy the thrill of fishing.

Trout Tips: Receive valuable tips and insights from the Australian Trout Foundation to improve your chances of landing a catch.

Expert Advice: Speak with fisheries officers from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to expand your knowledge of freshwater fishing.

Stalls: Explore stalls from industry-based businesses offering the latest in fishing gear, equipment, and accessories. Discover innovative products and connect with experts who share a passion for freshwater fishing.

Food and Refreshments: Satisfy your appetite with delicious food available for purchase from the Waroona Leos

Club. The Big Coffee Van will be on-site to keep you energised.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, 21 October 2023
Time: 10am-1pm
Location: Drakesbrook Weir, Waroona
Admission: FREE

Come along with your family and friends for a day of freshwater fishing and activities. Please bring cash for purchases, as not all stalls will have EFTPOS facilities.

Waroona Troutfest 2023 is proudly presented by the Shire of Waroona and Recfishwest, supported by Alcoa, and delivered in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Healthway, Fishability, and Act Belong Commit. For more information about Waroona Troutfest 2023 and to stay updated on event details, please visit waroona.wa.gov.au/events

KIDSPORT

Great news! KidSport has been doubled from \$150 to \$300 per eligible child per financial year!

The program provides financial assistance to families to ensure all children have the opportunity to participate in sport, remain physically active and build long lasting friendships.

Not only can the vouchers go towards club registration fees, but they can also be used towards essential playing equipment and uniforms.

KidSport is available to children between 5 and 18 years who are named on a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, with up to \$300 available per financial year.

To find out if your child is eligible, visit the website www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/kidsport

KidSport is delivered by the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries in partnership with local governments throughout Western Australia.



Local Government Notices

Local Government Act 1995 Cat Act 2011 Shire of Waroona Proposed Cat Amendment Local Law 2023

The Shire of Waroona proposes to make new Cat Amendment Local Law 2023. The **purpose** of this local law is to correct errors in the Shire of Waroona Cat Local Law 2023.

The **effect** of this local law is that the Shire of Waroona Cat Local Law 2023 is clearer to understand, apply and enforce.

A copy of the proposed local law may be inspected at or obtained from the Shire's office at 52 Hesse Street, Waroona, between 9.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday. A copy is also on the Shire's website www.waroona.wa.gov.au.

Submissions about the proposed local law may be made to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Waroona, PO Box 20, Waroona WA 6215 by 4pm Friday, 10 November 2023.

MARK GOODLET
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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