

**Shire of
Waroona**

Preston Beach Newsletter

Issue 8

December 2018

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Special points to note:

- No Camping on Beach, in dunes or the Beach Car park
- No Open Fires - anywhere!!
- Keep dogs on leashes in all public areas
- Swim safely and be aware of rips

President's Welcome ...

Welcome to all residents and visitors to Preston Beach for the 2018/19 summer.

Preston Beach is a special area on our coastline. It is blessed with some natural features such as, the surrounding lake systems and Tuart forests but also its easy access to the water. We are fortunate to have the ability to drive along the beach, to be able to fish or swim or to just enjoy the beautiful sunsets on a peaceful summers evening. I ask that in order for us all to keep this privilege, that we all play a part in our behaviour on the beach so we don't spoil what could be taken from us. Courtesy to others and safe and slow driving along the beach and just plain common-sense will ensure we all can enjoy this experience for many years too come. I also ask that while in Preston Beach you respect our fantastic Volunteer Rangers who are there to help out in guidance of what is appropriate behaviour so we can all have fun this summer and to respect the people who call this place home.

I truly wish you a peaceful and pleasant time in Preston and we want you to come back time and time again as you can help create a positive experience for others and more importantly your family. I thank you for your help in achieving this.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Mike Walmsley, Shire President



Some "do's" while in the area :

- ✳ enjoy your stay.
- ✳ stick to the 50km/h speed limit
- ✳ be courteous to others in the town.
- ✳ keep night time noise to a minimum as many people here are permanent residents.
- ✳ take your litter with you to help keep the environment pristine and waterways clean and healthy.
- ✳ drive carefully on the beach.
- ✳ watch out for kangaroos!

TIPS FOR THE BEACH

- **No lifesaving services operate on this beach.** Please treat these waters with care and caution at all times.
- Be courteous when parking on the beach.....park parallel to the ocean, not across the beach, east west fashion as this at times tends to block access.
- Please deflate your tyres before you get onto the beach access tracks.
- Do not drive between the tyres, this is extremely dangerous as lots of people, especially little ones, utilise this area.
- Please watch your speed. Kids playing on this beach may not hear you coming.
- Driving in the dunes is prohibited and significant penalties are applicable.
- Keep an eye on the young ones playing in the dunes as snakes are often prevalent over summer.

"Remember - No lifesaving services operate at Preston Beach"

NOTICE

CLOSURE OF GREEN WASTE AREA

Due to the risk of fire, the green waste area at Preston Beach will be closed between

15 December 2018 – 15 March 2019

Green waste can be disposed of at the Buller Road Refuse Site

702 Buller Road, WAROONA

Please direct any queries to the Shire of Waroona Works Depot on 9733 7817



BEN SIGNS

The Shire of Waroona was successful in obtaining a grant for new signs at Preston Beach. These signs, called Beach Emergency Numbers (BEN) system – are named in honour of fatal shark bite victim Ben Gerring, and have a coding system that aims to improve emergency response times.

The signs have been installed at 3 locations, the Pedestrian Access point, northern vehicular access point and southern vehicular access point at Preston Beach.

The BEN signs display unique codes based on a prefix followed by a number, the official location name of the beach, address, suburb and nearest intersection. This information along with the GPS coordinates for the sign have been sent to emergency services.

The BEN signs have been designed to assist emergency services to locate individuals in the case of shark bites or other incidents where emergencies may arise. In the event of an emergency, dial 000 and quote the unique code and other specific information on the sign.

BEN signs may also be referred to when reporting shark sightings to Water Police on Tel: 9442 8600.

In the event of an emergency where there is no BEN sign, members of the public are encouraged to use the Emergency Plus app. The app uses GPS functionality built into smart phones to help a 000 caller to provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services. For more information visit <http://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au>

Funding for the BEN Signs has been made available by the State Government. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has led the development of the BEN sign program, working with local governments in the development of their applications.

Further information is available on the Shire website www.waroona.wa.gov.au or <https://sharksmart.com.au/staying-safe/beach-emergency-numbers> and <https://sharksmart.com.au/staying-safe/faq-ben-signs/>

To check for recent shark activity in the area

Go to **SHARKSMART.COM.AU**

TO REPORT SHARK

SIGHTINGS CALL

WATER POLICE ON 9442 8600

The coastline in the Preston Beach area IS NOT patrolled by Surf Life Saving WA

For emergencies phone 000



Preston Beach Community Centre Redevelopment

The redevelopment of the Preston Beach Community Centre on Panorama Drive is moving ahead with funding for the project confirmed from the Shire of Waroona, the WA State Government Royalties for Regions Fund the Alcoa Waroona Sustainability Fund as well as Lotterywest.

With the contract being awarded to Smith Construction it is anticipated that the building will be completed in the second half of 2019. The existing Community Centre is leased from the Shire and managed by the Preston Beach Progress Association who makes the facility available to a range of other community users.



Summer Holidays Message from Preston Beach Volunteer Beach Rangers

Well before the busy summer period on our beach, the Volunteer Rangers were taking steps to try and ensure that this beach will be a safe environment for locals and visitors alike! Given that excessive speeding by an irresponsible minority is an increasing concern, we have been placing signs advising the "speed limit" and "caring for kids", at various places along the beach. In addition there are new signs advising drivers not to drive into the dunes...this year will see a 'no tolerance, no excuses' approach and offenders can expect a \$200 fine.

We recently reactivated our Coastal Interagency Group to look at the issues and concerns regarding the impact of the increasing traffic on the beach, especially between White Hills and Preston Beach. Our priority is to ensure we take positive measures that will keep this beach open for all to enjoy for as long as we can! This meeting was attended by Fisheries, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Shire Ranger Services, Volunteer Beach Rangers, PB Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Shire CEO and Deputy CEO. We were privileged to have a very informative presentation from Jo Ludbrook representing Coast South West and Peel and the Peron Naturaliste Group. Also attending from Lake Clifton were members of Aussie Wildlife Animal Rescue Rehab and Emergencies.

The meeting agreed there were numerous challenges for the future as a result of the inevitable increase in beach traffic and a need to be proactive, not reactive. At the end of the day, it is important that you, as beach goers have a say and we would encourage you to make a positive contribution.

Once again, this year, we will be out on the beach as often as we can, working to ensure locals and visitors have an enjoyable and safe environment.

Have an issue that you feel requires attention? Please contact

Shire Ranger Services 9531 7777
Preston Beach Volunteer Rangers 0427 199 754

For your information the Volunteer Beach Rangers have a 4WD ute equipped with a DFES Emergency radio, camera, satellite phone, etc. and a new All Terrain Vehicle which has the potential to access all parts of our dune area, quickly if required!

Currently, we have a crew of 4 active volunteers, Barry, Dave, Frank and Noel. We would like to encourage some female participation and would welcome any enquiries in this regard. It can be a challenging role at times but ultimately very rewarding. If interested phone Noel on 0427 199 754 or 0418 957 451.

We look forward to seeing all our visitors and locals on the beach this summer. Don't hesitate to flag us down for a "G'day" and a chat...otherwise a happy wave will be OK.

**NOTE:
Speed limit on
beach is 20km/h**

SICK OR INJURED NATIVE WILDLIFE

Regretfully, here at Preston Beach, there are often occasions when we come across a sick or injured animal and the usual question is what to do? Who can I contact?

The Department of Parks and Wildlife have a Wildcare Hotline, run by volunteers, who will assist you in this regard.....Phone...9474 9055. They should also be contacted if you sight any injured or stranded dolphins or whales on our beach. Please note, that we often have seals come ashore on our beach.....in the majority of cases, they have just dropped in for a quick rest and a warm up in the sun....please leave them in peace and importantly, keep dogs away.

In addition, we have a group of volunteers, Aussie Wildlife Animal Rescue who are also willing to help out in our area. They will also deal with sick or injured native wildlife and even injured native birds. If for example you see a female kangaroo that has just been hit by a car, it may have a joey in its pouch and you are not sure what to do, give them a call. Please note they do not handle beach issues or snakes. Contact details are:

Aussie Wildlife Rescue Rehab & Emergencies (A.W.A.R.E.)

Wendy.....0403 240 388

Ros.....0407 424048

Sam.....0499 900 630

PRESTON BEACH PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Management Committee for the Preston Beach Progress Association would like to extend our very best wishes to all, for a safe and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to the completion and opening of our fabulous new facility, the Preston Beach Community Hall in the first half of 2019, setting the scene for wonderful times ahead.

The hall will be leased and managed by the PBPA as was the previous building but it will be in every way, a Community Centre and we hope to see not only members attending functions, but all residents of Preston Beach and surrounding areas. Of course, we continue to urge everyone in our area to join the Assoc., for the small fee of \$15 per person per year. Membership fees and donations are an important part of our revenue, needed to fund the running costs of the hall and events.

Our next free event will be Carols by Torchlight, held in conjunction with the Preston Beach Volunteer Fire Brigade on 23rd Dec commencing at 6.30pm at the fire shed on Preston Drive. There will be local entertainment and a sausage sizzle. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a chair.

The AGM of the PBPA will be held in February and we hope to see all our members in attendance. This is your opportunity to step up to a leadership role if you are inclined toward community service. All executives positions will be available for re-election.

We take this opportunity to thank the Shire of Waroona, volunteers within our membership, Clint & Gwen Vagg of PB General Store, the Management and staff of Footprints Cafe, PBV Fire Brigade, PBV Rangers and PB Golf Club committees and members for their very kind cooperation and support during the year.

In this season of Peace and Goodwill, may you and your family enjoy the merriest Christmas of all.

JUDY CARROLL
PRESIDENT

**FOR ALL FIRE
EMERGENCIES
PLEASE
DIAL 000**



PRESTON BEACH VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADE

It is hard to believe, we are not long out of a cold, wet winter and already we are bombarded with messages about the need to be prepared for the rapidly approaching bushfire season. Reality is, we do live in a bushfire prone area and it is essential that we listen to these important messages.

There is a simple question.....Are you ready? Are you prepared?

We all have a responsibility to ensure we have a plan in place, to be able to say "Yes, we have thought about what we need to do in order to be prepared for a worst-case scenario".

If you are unsure as to how to prepare a plan, we suggest you go to the Department of Fire and Emergency website (DFES), here you will get all the information required to help formulate a plan that you can work through with your family. For example, look at the five minute 'Fire Chat', and there is so much more valuable information on this site. In addition, we do recommend, if you have any concerns re a fire in your area, that you use the DFES site as they will post and update info on all fires in the State. They will also advise of any days of **Total Fire Ban** that are applicable to our area and we strongly recommend everyone to understand the rules applicable to a **Total Fire Ban**...it could result in a \$1,000 on-the-spot fine!

Here in Preston Beach we are fortunate to have a well-trained group of volunteers, a dedicated bunch of men and women who are prepared to give up their time to train hard and, more importantly, often put their lives on the line to protect this community, other communities and the many visitors that come to our region.

We have a well-equipped Fire Station which is home to our 3.4 Urban Tanker and in addition, we have a High Season Light Tanker for the summer period, which allows us to access areas such as the sand dunes, for example.

The Preston Beach Fire Brigade is ably led by our Captain, Steve Thomas. Apart from being our Brigade Captain, Steve has been the driver of training of volunteer fireies right across the Shire.

As always, we are looking for new members and if you have just moved into town and would like to know what we are about, please feel free to talk to any one of our brigade members.

In conclusion, we wish everyone in our community and all our very special visitors a very happy Christmas and a great 2019.



PRESTON BEACH GOLF CLUB, 2018 REPORT

The Preston Beach Golf Club has completed another successful season. Competition games were played each Friday and Sunday from early April to the end of November.

Participation rates continue to swing from very good to quite bad! Attendance rates vary due to the vagaries of the weather, and more so, it seems, because many residents head North for all or part of the winter! This seems more common with each passing year.

Our synthetic greens are now eleven years old having been installed in 2007 and we will have to look at replacement in the near future. They have proven to be successful, but could have been larger in area size, however financial restraints dictated what we could achieve. Hopefully, we can enlarge them when they are replaced.

We are seeking Shire assistance in doing much needed landscape improvements on the number three hole. Currently, the green sits atop a steep hill which becomes a wind tunnel particularly for the spring and summer south westerly winds. Consequently, the green is constantly covered in beach sand and attempts to remedy this problem only last a few days. Sometimes putting is almost impossible!

In the Spring we tried a free golf coaching clinic, open to everyone, but also aimed at the younger people. Initially, this was a success but numbers fell away as the weeks passed. Why?, there seems no logical reason. We had two experienced coaches, one man, one woman, police accredited and the Club put on a free sausage sizzle for participants. The clinic was sponsored by the Department of Sport and Recreation, and we are thankful for their assistance and finance. With so many retired residents, and not a large choice of endeavours to participate in, the end result was disappointing. We will have to seriously consider whether or not we repeat the clinics.

Our work is all voluntary, and whilst the course is a difficult one, especially in summer due to not being fully reticulated and the damage caused by the excessive kangaroo numbers, we continue to improve conditions each year. The course is now quite good for most of the year. Our aims and hope for reticulation is still paramount.

In conclusion, we wish everyone all the very best for a safe and merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

BILL MCLELLAN



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SHIRE OF WAROONA

"We're on the Web -
www.waroona.wa.gov.au"



SHIRE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Shire Administration office, Library and Vehicle Licensing Centre will be closed over the Christmas & New Year period from 3pm 24th December to 1st January inclusive. Reopening on Wednesday 2nd January 2019. The Buller Road Refuse Site will be open its normal hours and days except for Christmas Day & New Year Day. (eg, closed 25th Dec & 1st Jan). Please note that your residential kerbside rubbish collection will remain as normal either Wednesday or Thursday depending on your area.



Waroona Shire Rangers

The Shire of Waroona and the Shire of Murray jointly provide the Ranger services within our Shire. Shire of Waroona residents can contact the Rangers on 9531 7777 and follow the prompts.

Please note: After hours service is only available for emergencies in which there is danger to the public and only if there has been a major dog attack or if there is stray stock on the roads.

The Shire Rangers work tirelessly throughout the festive season, but it is important for the general public to note it is not a 24 hour service. Matters will be responded to outside normal office hours if the Rangers consider it to be an emergency. Shire Rangers will respond to all matters within the appropriate time frames, dependent upon the complexity of the matter and their current circumstances.

Shire Rangers are there to administer and enforce the provisions of the following:

- Local Government Act 1995
- Local Government Miscellaneous provisions Act 1960
- Dog Act 1976 & regulations
- Litter Act 1979 & regulations
- Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 and regulations 1997
- Bush fires Act 1954 & regulations
- Control of vehicles (off road areas) Act 1978

Beware of Ticks

At certain times of the year kangaroo ticks can be prevalent in Preston Beach. Walking through thick scrub is not recommended. A good quality repellent will greatly assist in keeping these little nasties from becoming attached to you! A leaflet on the ticks can usually be found at the General Store.

PRESTON BEACH TOWNSHIP

