

Shire President's Report



I hope everyone has now settled into 2024. This has been a particularly dry Summer with a few bursts of hot weather. As predicted, it was always going to be a challenging fire season due to the low amount of moisture in our environment. While our Shire has had a few incidents, our neighbours have had some significant events, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all our emergency volunteers who have been kept busy helping out with

firefighting and mopping up efforts. I know the various neighbours have really appreciated the support and we can be very proud of our brigades for stepping up when needed.

Work has been steadily undertaken on the nature playground at the Drakesbrook Weir. This area has been particularly busy given our warm Summer and this has delivered a few issues around water quality. The Drakesbrook Weir is a freshwater body that serves as an irrigation water source. While the quality of the water is generally good, it is untreated, and from time to time in warmer weather it can harbour amoebae. While most are harmless, one particular one is linked to Meningitis. Testing is continuing but during the times that certain amoebae are present, it is important

that people refrain from any activity that might cause water to be forced up into the nose.

Our community event to celebrate the opening of the Railside Park showcased what the potential is for this area. With children and adults sharing activities on the Skatewave Park area, others were cycling on the pump track and enjoying the playground. In time when the trees grow and the six seasons garden matures, this will certainly be a great area for recreational and social events. Council is looking forward to further upgrades to the Big shed and the opening of the RV stay area. Thank you to those that made the effort to attend on a very warm evening to enjoy this new park.

One of the functions of our Council is the recognition of members of our community who give to others and help to make our world a better place. We certainly had some very worthy recipients this year at our Australia Day awards ceremony. This year was significant in the fact that our individual meritorious award winners were all females who have given significant personal sacrifice in volunteering for a raft of organisations that drives a collaborative and engaged community. To Lily, Alison, Lyndie, Barbara and Laurie, we all thank you for your commitment and we also acknowledge all the members of the Just Cruisin Car Club and the local St Vinnies for supporting our residents and visitors.

Cr Mike Walmsley, Shire President

Local Government Notices

A Greener Tomorrow and Enhanced Community Benefits.

In a move set to enrich the lives of all residents and enhance community well-being, the Shire of Waroona is reallocating resources to whole of community needs. The days of the Shire mowing front road verges for free are coming to an end. Instead, the shire proposes to reallocate these resources to nurture our flourishing new community precinct, a change aimed at promoting equity, inclusivity and sustainability.

A Positive Change - For many years, the Shire has taken on the responsibility of mowing verges for a select few ratepayers. However, there is a growing need for equitable resource allocation and a more sustainable approach. From the 01/03/2024, like most other Local Government Authorities, residents in the Shire of Waroona, will be responsible for the maintenance of their own verges or be required to pay for *private works*, if they want the Shire to mow their road verges.

Community Precinct Blossoms as a Hub for All - The resources that were once dedicated to free verge mowing will now be channeled into the development and maintenance of our brand-new community precinct. This precinct promises to become the heart of our community, featuring a range of recreational and social spaces, as well as green areas for residents to enjoy.

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability - By relinquishing the practice of mowing front verges, the Shire of Waroona is embracing a greener, more environmentally friendly approach. This step aligns with the growing global commitment to sustainability, with the local government actively reducing its carbon footprint. Our community is taking a positive stride toward a more eco-conscious future.

Future Verge Beautification Program - To further empower residents and promote community engagement, the Shire of Waroona is planning on

developing a "Verge Beautification Program." This initiative will encourage residents to take ownership of their front verges, fostering a strong sense of pride and individuality within our neighborhoods. Along with providing support for residents creating unique, sustainable and waterwise verge designs.

Community Involvement and Feedback - The local government understands that such a change might evoke mixed reactions in our community. To address concerns and ensure transparency, residents are able to express their thoughts and suggestions, thus ensuring a collective and community-driven approach to these issues.

Your Voice Matters - We believe that every community member has a stake in the future of our region. Your voice matters, and your involvement is crucial in shaping the development of the planned new "Verge Beautification Program." We encourage you to attend upcoming community meetings, participate in discussions, and embrace the exciting opportunities ahead as the come up in the new year.

As we bid farewell to the tradition of free front verge mowing, let's welcome the dawn of a new era for our community. The resources that were once used for this service will now be invested in creating a dynamic and sustainable community precinct that promises to make our town even more vibrant and inclusive. As well as develop the planned new "Verge Beautification Program", which will focus on climate change mitigation, urban canopy growth and streetscape cooling.

It's a greener tomorrow, and we invite you to be a part of this journey, where the possibilities are as endless as the flourishing green spaces that lie ahead. For further information or to provide a submission, please contact the Shire of Waroona on (08) 9733 7800 or via email: warshire@waroona.wa.gov.au.



Local Government Act 1995 Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 Shire of Waroona Notice of Ordinary Council Meetings 2024

The Council of the Shire of Waroona will hold its Ordinary Council meetings on the dates and at the locations in 2024 as follows:

February	Tuesday 27 February	Council Chamber
March	Tuesday 26 March	Preston Beach Community Centre
April	Tuesday 23 April	Council Chamber
May	Tuesday 28 May	Council Chamber
June	Tuesday 25 June	Council Chamber
July	Tuesday 23 July	Council Chamber
August	Tuesday 27 August	Council Chamber
September	Tuesday 24 September	Council Chamber
October	Tuesday 22 October	Preston Beach Community Centre
November	Tuesday 26 November	Council Chamber
December	Tuesday 17 December	Council Chamber

Meetings will commence at 4.00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

MARK GOODLET
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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.

Latest News & Updates

Railside Park Twilight Community Celebration



Despite the extreme heat, nothing seemed to slow down the local young Waroona skateboarders and BMX enthusiasts at the Railside Park Twilight Community Celebration on Friday evening.

Both the new SkateWave Park and the Pump Track were in full use under the big lights with local participants enjoying thrilling skateboarding demonstrations and competing for prizes in exciting

competitions. The skate deck painting and face painting proved extremely popular, and the cooling units brought in for the kids into the Big Shed and the activity tent were very much appreciated by the parents.

Reverend Robert Jetta gave the Welcome to Country and MC Shire President Mike Walmsley was on hand to welcome Senator Louise Pratt, representing the



Hon Kristy McBain. Senator Pratt spoke warmly of the joy that the park is so clearly bringing to the children of Waroona.

Mrs Robyn Clarke, MLA, representing the Hon David Templeman MLA, who sent his apologies, said she was proud to have helped make the park a reality. She congratulated the Shire of Waroona on their incredible efforts in finally bringing it to the community.

A few people tried their hand at pole carving and will hopefully attend the upcoming community mosaic workshops. The artistic talent on display from the murals along the wall of Big Shed and at the SkateWave park were admired by everyone and make a fantastic contribution to the colour and vibrancy of the park.

And finally, a variety of food trucks were kept very busy during the night, especially the icy cold mocktails and the Mr Whippy van.

Outstanding Perth band *Gemini* provided the latest tunes in the cooler evening environment, with locals relaxing and enjoying their music.

Railside Park proved to have something for everyone, as evidenced by a certain Deputy Shire President who was seen bravely hurtling around the park on her kids' scooter!



Dispose of your unwanted AgVet chemicals safely in upcoming ChemClear collection in WA.

Agsafe's **ChemClear** program is holding a collection in Western Australia in March-April 2024. AgVet chemical users can now register their unwanted or obsolete AgVet chemicals for collection by visiting the ChemClear website, chemclear.org.au or by calling 1800 008 182.

All successful registrations are acknowledged by email or post. A reference number relating to each of your Group 1 and 2 chemical registrations will be provided. Once your chemicals are registered with ChemClear, continue to store the chemicals safely and securely.

An appropriate quantity of storage stickers will be sent out by post, one month after your registration with ChemClear. These stickers will display your registration reference number and are provided for placement on the containers you have registered for disposal. These stickers will aid safe storage and identify the chemicals to your employees, auditors, and others as being registered for disposal.

ChemClear will contact you directly to advise the location and date of the collection point in your local government area. If you have registered any Group 2

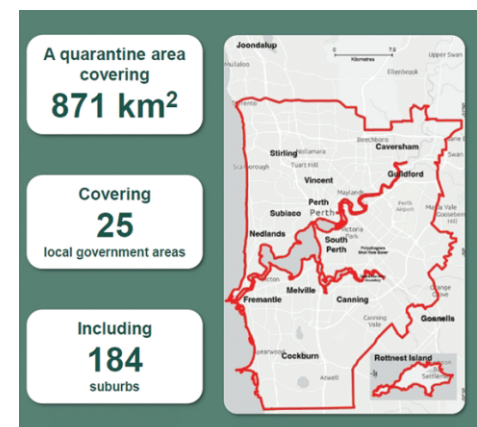
classified chemicals, you will be provided with a quote on a per L/kg basis for the collection and disposal of these products.

When a collection is scheduled in your area ChemClear will contact you and provide the following information:

- the address of the collection site
- a date for the collection
- an appointment time to deliver the chemicals to the collection team.

To register your chemicals, please visit:
chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical

Invasive Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB)



"The invasive Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB) is wreaking havoc on Perth's

trees, leading to extensive damage and the urgent need for mitigation. Parks and Leisure Australia WA (PLAWA) has drafted an advocacy paper highlighting the critical impacts of PSHB and calling for swift action to address its devastating effects on both public and private trees".

https://parksleisure.com.au/wa-addressing-the-devastating-impact-of-polyphagous-shot-hole-borer-on-perth-trees-advocacy-position-paper/?at_context=65 The responses include education, monitoring, and a quarantine zone for Perth as show below. Hence being within the Southwest, which is 1 of 34 internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots, Shire of Waroona

staff are proposing to implement similar responses. These will include a) *an Advocacy Position Paper requesting more resourcing to deal with this issue*, b) *guidelines (adapted from existing protocols in place for the Perth quarantine zone) to protect our agricultural/horticultural industries i.e. Macadamia etc* and c) *an awareness and information program to alert everyone*.

The PSHB infestation results in significant health repercussions for a growing list of Perth's trees. The beetle bore tunnels into tree trunks, creating galleries for breeding and introducing a fungus (*Fusarium Sp.*) that further weakens the tree's immune system. This process disrupts

the tree's vascular system, impeding nutrient flow and causing dieback, limb breakage, and eventual tree death.

The Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer presents an alarming threat to exotic and native trees, posing cascading detrimental impacts on our environmental, economic, and community well-being. Proactive and concerted action is crucial to preventing further loss by preserving our valuable tree canopies and urban greenery. For further discussions, please contact Leith Fradd, Executive Officer, Parks and Leisure Australia (WA) on leith@parksleisure.com.au or 0451993526. Reference: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/borer>

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