



Shire President's Message

The chilly Autumn mornings are upon us but I must confess the warm sunny days are enjoyable for those outdoor activities before we head into the Winter months. April has been a busy month within the Shire. The All Australian Car Day attracted 3000 plus car enthusiasts despite the inclement weather.

GYM OPENING

April saw the re-opening of the Waroona Recreation Centre Gymnasium. After taking months

of construction it was finally opened by Murray Wellington MLA Murray Cowper. With the Gym increasing in size it meant that it could accommodate different groups of users at the same time.

Fitness instructors are now able to increase their numbers

for those needing rehabilitation or users who require other fitness for other health reasons and they will run specific balance and strength classes. The \$575,000 project was paid for with \$250,000 from the Department of Regional Development's Royalties for Regions program, \$200,000 from the Waroona Shire



Council and \$125,000 from the Department of Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund. This addition adds to the important part of Health and Fitness in our Community. The Staff are more than happy to give you a guided tour of our Facility and show you the programs on offer.

WAR MEMORIAL

On the 17th April we had the dedication of the new base to the towns War Memorial.

With discussions with the Waroona-Hamel RSL it was decided that we would give the War Memorial a face lift for the 100 years of ANZAC. The existing monument was restored

after some 50 plus years. Tracey Fickling President of the local RSL was the Master of Ceremonies, Members from Dawesville RSL brought their eternal flame, George Wally spoke and conducted a smoking ceremony and Fr Jayan Johnson and Rev Julie Baker blessed our new monument in front of a small crowd.

ANZAC DAY

The Waroona RSL held a lovely ceremony for ANZAC Day. Congratulations to President Tracey Fickling and her committee. Councillors Trish Witney and Lena Look laid a wreath on behalf of the Shire.

CITIZENSHIP

Last Friday Rodolph Yldeso, his wife Myla and their two sons Gabriel and Miguel became Australian citizens.

I performed the ceremony in Council Chambers and congratulated them on their decision to take up Australian Citizenship.

We wish them good luck for their future in Australia.

FUNDING

Also could I remind all Community Groups and organisations that applications are now open for the WAGERUP SUSTAINABILITY FUND 2015 GRANTS. Projects for consideration must meet the principles of being for charitable purposes. The committee has not set an upper limit on the amount of grant funds it may distribute. The amount will be dependent on the strength of applications received. A copy of the grant guidelines and application form, can be downloaded from the Shire Website or obtained from the Shire office.

Applications must be received by the closing time and date of 4pm Friday 15 May 2015.

The committee also wishes to advise that it intends to release a grant funding round in the 2nd half of 2015 from the Alcoa Waroona Sustainability Fund. This fund does not require applicant's projects to be for charitable purposes. More information will be released later this year.

Also the Peel Development Commission has a "Community Chest Fund" available, check their site for more details or



contact their office on 9535 0000.

COUNCIL MEETING

At the April Council meeting the Council endorsed a number of measures to help reduce costs in the coming 2015/16 budget. Continual rising costs affect everyone, including the Shire, and the Council is committed to getting the best possible service for the available funds. This is part of an on-going review to ensure that we keep on top of rising costs so it does not lead to a need to significantly increase rates above the amounts predicted in our forward planning.

SUNDOWNER

A reminder to all the residents of Waroona of the up-coming

Fire Thankyou Sundowner that will be held in the Waroona Town Hall this Friday evening, May 15. Residents who were affected by the fire and all those who helped during the fire are encouraged and welcome to attend. For catering purposes I ask that if you will be attending please RSVP to cdo@waroona.wa.gov.au . I look forward to seeing you all there on the evening.

WORKS PROGRAMME

The works crew have completed the sealing of Somers Road and Buller Road recently and the intersection will be kerbed at a later date. Hesse Street is also complete with the final seal going down making it a very smooth drive now.

REDEDICATION OF THE WAROONA ANZAC MEMORIAL

The rededication of the Waroona ANZAC Memorial took place on Friday the 17th of April at ANZAC Place. The monument features a new stone base with the inscription "Dedicated To All Who Served" along the base. It was a project by the Shire of Waroona after consultation with the Waroona RSL Sub Branch back in September. For the project the Shire received a Saluting Our Services grant to the tune of \$3,600.00.

The rededication was led by Tracey Fickling, President of the Waroona RSL Sub Branch who spoke of the importance of memorials and how they served as a reminder to the community of the sacrifice of local men and women. The monument itself represents the young men and women who have come from the local area, who have gone to war and never returned. Their names recorded forever in stone. It represents the great and tragic loss to our community, our country, the families of the fallen, and

the young Australians whose lives were cut short by the harsh reality of war. Followed by the lighting of the eternal flame by members of the Dawesville RSL, a very prestigious honour given there is only a few in Australia. Jacinta Dwyer sang the national anthem and George Wally commenced his welcome to country, both through song and speech. The blessing of the stone was by Father Jayan Johnson of the Waroona Catholic parish and Reverend Julie Baker of the Pinjarra Anglican parish who led in prayer before the laying of the wreaths. Flags were lowered to half-mast after the last post by representatives of Waroona District High School's Western Front Group before the final blessing and George Wally closed the rededication with a traditional smoking ceremony. The service was simple, but pleasantly done and paid respect to all involved in the armed services and Waroona's history.



OFFICIAL REOPENING OF GYMNASIUM EXTENSION

Friday the 17th of April saw the official opening of the new gymnasium extension at the Waroona Recreation and Aquatic Centre. The Gym extension received funding from the Shire of Waroona, the Department of Regional Developments Royalties for Regions scheme and the Department of Sport and Recreations Community Sporting and Recreational Facilities Fund (CSRFF).

Shire President Cr Christine Germain welcomed guests, before speaking of the project and it's much anticipated reopening. The opening was attend by Murray Cowper MLA, Leanne Peebles on

behalf of Department of Sport and Rec, Trish Morris and Steve Platell of the Waroona Recreation Advisory Committee, Councillors Deputy President Trish Witney, Craig Wright and John Mason and Shire of Waroona Executive and Recreation Staff. Murray Cowper addressed all about the importance of such a facility in a small town that has such a rich sporting heritage before cutting the ribbon with Shire President Cr Christine Germain.

Following the official opening, all took a walk through the new facility to view firsthand the change and renovation undertaken. Although the project was a long time in the making it is great to see the

outcome. Prior to the upgrade the facility was found to be too small and it did not adequately meet the needs of the Shires current population. It is hopeful that the new gymnasium extension will promote health, well-being and fitness of residents and to provide improved recreational pursuits for residents.

The opening was followed by an official launch that featured membership discounts and free appraisals by our qualified gym instructors. Instructors can set a program tailored to suit individuals and provide users the opportunity to be advised how to use the new gym equipment.



Next Council Meeting

Next Council Meeting will be 26th May at 4pm at the Shire of Waroona Council Chambers behind the administration office.

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COUNCIL REVIEWS ANNUAL COSTS AND SERVICE LEVELS

As part of a mid-year review of the current budget position the Council, at its April meeting, has made some early adjustments to claw back the lack of growth in income and ever increasing expenditure costs. Council adopted a balanced budget in August 2014 and, whilst the current budget looks on track to come in on-budget at the end of June, the Council has acted to further reduce costs ahead of preparing the 2015/16 budget.

The State Government's decision to abolish the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund, which amounted to \$466,000 per year for this Shire and also its commitment to reducing Regional Road Group Funding for road projects, which has already been reduced regionally by some \$130,000, together with its decision to abolish the Regional Run Off Road Program, have continued to put pressure on Council's finances which would ultimately lead to a need to increase rates beyond that which is anticipated in the current forward plan.

Spiralling utility costs are becoming increasingly difficult to fund and are well in excess of annual CPI. The Council has been advised that the annual cost of providing street lighting will increase in 2015/16 by 36.8% from \$89,000 to \$121,000 next year, which, alone, equates to around an extra 1% in rates, and the cost of supplying gas to heat the pool at the Recreation Centre has already increased this year by 36% over the budgeted amount with the total cost of gas for the year estimated at around \$70,000.

The Council has already reduced staff numbers by not replacing the Director of Community Services and the Environmental Health/Building Officer, with the workload of those positions being divided amongst existing staff and a 2 day per week contract service for the Environmental Health work currently provided by the Shire of Murray. A further 2

positions in the Depot workforce have not been replaced, foreshadowing a scaling back of construction and maintenance work in the coming year. Council is also in the final stages of an arrangement with the Shire of Murray to contract Ranger services from them in 2015/16.

The Council has requested a number of its internal committees further investigate a more targeted delivery of the bi-annual bulk rubbish collection, increasing landfill space at the Buller Road Refuse site to increase income in that area, and to review the annual costs involved in assisting the hosting of large scale local events which currently is at \$25,000 per year.

Following the review the Council has resolved to decommission public BBQs around the Shire during the winter months, excluding those at Preston Beach and Centennial Park. The costly maintenance undertaken in winter is largely due to vandalism of the BBQs during this period. Council has also resolved to turn King Park, Pisoneri Park and Hamel Park into dry parks to reduce water costs and labour costs in maintaining the grassed surfaces. Council also considered including the top cricket oval in this, however, resolved to maintain its current level of maintenance. The Council has also resolved to close the swimming pool at the Recreation Centre during the month of August to allow for annual maintenance in that area.

Shire President, Cr Christine Germain, said that, whilst it is never easy reducing services to the community, Council has taken the proactive step of reducing its costs early to reduce the impact on the rates increase in next year's budget.

ONELIFE SUICIDE PREVENTION SMALL GRANTS & TRAINING

The Shire of Waroona has successfully received funding from One Life to the tune of nearly \$15,000 from two separate grant applications- one being for training and the other small grants.

The funding will be used to undertake a collaborative project with the Shire of Waroona and the Waroona District

High School to deliver essential training programs to youth in the local community. Programs include Teen Mental Health First Aid and Ground Shock workshops and to Deliver Youth Mental Health First Aid in the Waroona community which includes sporting groups, school

staff, volunteers, those who are working with at risk youth and those who have a child suffering from a mental illness.

The Shire of Waroona is one of only two councils to successfully receive funding for their projects and the only one to receive a grant in both offered.



YOUTH ACTION EVENT

On Thursday the 16th of April, the annual Youth Action Event took place at the Waroona Skate Park. The Youth Action Event has been held in Waroona since 2008. The initiative was created by the Youth Advisory Council to involve the community in National Youth Week and is held during this week every year. It is brought to the community by the Alcoa 'Summer Event' series, Department of Local Communities and Families and the Youth Advisory Council.

With the event having to be rescheduled due to rain, we were fortunate enough to have the sun out whilst the kids took part in the activities. With approximately 200 in attendance this year, the Youth Action Event provided a free of charge afternoon to all children aged 8-18. The event incorporated active participation through the climbing wall, bouncy castle, bucking bull and Skating/BMX demonstrations and workshops. Promoting health and wellbeing through GP Down South allows the kids to learn of mental illness, health problems etc. There was also a crafts area, for those who prefer a creative outlet where Ange from the Nifty Nook had kids decorating the new YAC banner.

The success and the popularity of this event has seen it reoccur for as long as it has. Providing education and active participation to individuals involved on how to lead a healthy lifestyle we see the youth of the Shire of Waroona positively use their time, reducing troubles they may have been susceptible to and create healthier and happy members who know have the knowledge about how/when/where to seek help if they are in need, thus improving their health status.



DRAFT PRESTON BEACH TOWNSITE STRATEGY

The Shire has received formal correspondence from the Western Australian Planning Commission in relation to the Draft Preston Beach Townsite Strategy. At its meeting of 24 February 2015, the Commission resolved not to support the proposed Draft Preston Beach Townsite Strategy and to refuse the proponents' request to initiate the associated proposed amendment to the Peel Region Scheme. The reasons for the Commission's decision are summarised as follows:

- The proposed substantial urban expansion at Preston Beach is not consistent with the objectives and key requirements for substantial urban development in State Planning Policy 3 – Urban Growth and Settlement.
- The Commission considers that the demand for substantial expansion of urban zoned land has not been adequately demonstrated.

- The expansion of the Urban zone at Preston Beach is inconsistent with the Draft South Metropolitan and Peel Sub-Regional Planning Framework.
- There is potential for significant indirect impacts from the proposed development on the adjacent wetlands and the Yalgorup National Park.
- The proposal is not consistent with the objectives of the draft State Planning Policy 3.7 – Planning for Bushfire Risk Management.

In addition the Shire has been advised that the Commission and the Environmental Protection Authority are investigating the potential to reserve remnant rural zoned properties within the Yalgorup National Park area for 'Parks and Recreation'.

It is understood that the proponents are currently considering their response to the decision.

IT'S A YARN THING

Whether or not you can knit or crochet there will be a place for you in this exciting new event that promises to bring colour and fun to Waroona.

A recent gathering at Waroona Visitor Centre & Gallery showed the enthusiasm and support for It's a Yarn Thing, an "event within an event" to be held in conjunction with the Sea to ART Exhibition in November.

There are so many ways to create with yarn and the internet is awash with ideas – you can weave and wrap, knit and crochet or sew and stitch your way to making "things" that are just for fun or that can be sold to raise funds to support our local St John Ambulance.

This is for all age groups and you can choose your own level involvement. Make a few pom poms, crochet some bunting or make the yarn tea cosy to end all tea cosies! And these ideas are just the tip of the iceberg!

