

INSIGHT

The Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Newsletter

OCTOBER 2008

SHIRE TO REVIEW LOCAL PLANNING STRATEGY

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is currently reviewing its draft Local Planning Strategy, which was originally adopted in 2001, with the Shire appointing Town Planning Consultants - Larry Smith Planning - to undertake the review.

The Strategy will focus on a broad range of issues affecting the long term development of the Shire including future residential growth to ensure choice and on-going affordability, economic and employment opportunities, tourism and future directions for the extensive and valuable rural areas of the Shire. The Strategy will need to strike a balance between providing for sustainable growth while protecting the rural, environmental and lifestyle values which distinguish Bridgetown and surrounding districts from other locations in the Warren Blackwood region.

The first Community Workshop is to be held on Saturday 18 October 2008 at the Bridgetown Recreation Centre, between 2pm - 5pm. The Workshop, which will take the format of small working groups, will address the townsites as well as the rural areas within the Shire and seek to identify:

◆ What aspects of the townsites and rural areas are valued by the

Community and important for the future of the Shire?

◆ What are the problems with the way the townsites and rural areas are currently developing?

◆ What directions should future growth of the townsites and rural areas take?

The Strategy is expected to be completed by mid-2009 and a

preliminary draft will be the subject of a further Community Workshop expected to be held in early 2009. The revised Local Planning Strategy will form the basis for preparation of the Shire's new Local Planning Scheme.

Should you wish to attend the workshop please contact the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes on (08) 9761 1555 or via email at btshire@bridgetown.wa.gov.au by Thursday 16 October 2008, to assist with seating arrangements.

Message from the President

In the last edition I mentioned the certificates given for long service to volunteer organisations by a number of local residents. It has come to my notice that in March this year Ken Turner was awarded a certificate for 50 years service to the Bush Fire movement. My belated congratulations go to Ken for a magnificent achievement. I believe Ken still attends meetings to ensure all is in order!

Energy efficient lights are becoming more popular as we learn more about the environment, but how many people realise that these compact fluorescent lights (CFL's) contain mercury which is harmful to both our health and the environment. The Shire now has a recycling box at the Waste Management Site for the safe disposal and recycling of CFL's. Please use this service wherever possible.

At a recent meeting Councillors unanimously supported the blacking out of the parking bays on the west side of central Hampton Street in order that bays



• Shire President, Brian Moore.

could be marked in accordance with Australian Standards. This will make it easier to get into the bays and out of the way of traffic.

We are approaching the busy time of the year for Bridgetown with numerous events that require considerable effort in their organisation but that have a significant impact on our local economy. To those people involved, well done. To those that want to become involved please contact the Shire office for details of the events and organisers.



New Faces at Shire Office	2
SW Volunteer Bush Fire Games	3
Know any Local Heroes?	4
Between the Lines	5
Nuisance Pets Increasing	5
Rec. Centre News	6

New Faces at the Shire Offices



• Left to right back row – Elizabeth Denniss, Executive Manager Community Services; Jessica Cresey, Trainee; Pip Lake, Rates/Payroll Officer; front row, Linda Thomas, Executive Assistant and Lesa Boni, Community Development Officer.

If you have visited the Shire offices recently you will have seen some new people. Elizabeth Denniss commenced work as Executive Manager of Community Services in late August. Lesa Boni returned from maternity leave and took up her new role of Community Development Officer, Phillipa (Pip) Lake commenced in mid-September as the Rates/Payroll Officer, Linda Thomas also

commenced in mid-September as the Executive Assistant and Jessica Cresey has been appointed as a trainee Administration Officer.

Sue Hodson has returned to the Shire as the Ranger's Admin Support Officer and is based at the Rangers Office which recently relocated to the Visitor Centre Complex (former Blues Festival office).

Have Snakes on Your Property?

A number of residents have contacted the Shire to report snake sightings on their properties. However, it should be noted that Shire Rangers are unable to remove snakes, as they are not qualified snake handlers.



• Rounding 'em up! Terry Lamey capturing a snake

qualified snake handlers – Terry Lamey on 0438 950 203 or Jamie Ternent on 97611688.

Conservation Works at 'Bridgedale' The Blechynden House

A portion of the old shingle roof of 'Bridgedale' on Hampton Street was removed in early May 2008 and temporary tarpoline covers installed. The National Trust of Australia (WA) sought approval from Council to undertake conservation works to address serious termite and water damage problems by replacing the existing roof shingles with corrugated iron roof sheeting and bull nosed verandahs, replacing damaged roof timber battens and other minor restoration works.

Council resolved at its meeting on 26 June 2008 to refuse the application and request that the National Trust re-roof the building with shingles.

SOUTH-WEST FRAMEWORK

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) has released the draft 'South West Framework', seeking public comment from this Shire and other stakeholders by 30 September 2008.

The WAPC states that: "The South-West Framework is a broad planning blueprint which seeks to guide the future development of the South-West region over the next 15-20 years while protecting its significant natural, landscape, conservation and social attributes. The framework addresses the scale and distribution of future population growth and housing development and identifies strategies for dealing with economic growth, environmental issues, transport, infrastructure, water resources, agriculture, tourism and the emerging impacts of climate change. It seeks to ensure that growth and development in the South-West region is achieved in a way that improves people's lives and enhances the unique character and environment of the region."

Council recently considered a report and agreed that the draft Framework could have significant implications on planning and development within the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, and resolved to lodge a submission with the WAPC recommending a number of changes. Council Minutes from the 25 September 2008 meeting can be accessed at www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

Council at its meeting on 28 July 2008 rescinded the original decision in order to seek negotiation with the National Trust for a possible shared funding arrangement for a replacement shingle roof.

The National Trust did not accept Council's offer to commence negotiations to contribute funds and following advice from the Heritage Council of Western Australia, Council at its Special Meeting on 7 August 2008 resolved to grant planning approval for the proposed conservation works subject to conditions. Council Minutes from the 26 June 2008, 28 July 2008 and 7 August 2008 meetings can be accessed at www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au.

South West Volunteer Bush Fire Games

Bridgetown is again hosting the 2008 South West Volunteer Bush Fire Games to be held at the Bridgetown Showgrounds on Saturday, 11 October from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. The Games will be officially opened at 10.00 am by the Fire and Emergency Services Chief Executive Officer, Jo Harrison-Ward.

Come along and cheer the teams from all around the South West, including the Cadet teams from

Fire Fighting Workshop for Women

Community Emergency Services Officer, Chris Sousa will be conducting a workshop for women on Wednesday, 26th November (9.30am - 12.00noon) at the Bridgetown Family & Community Centre. The workshop will cover situations such as -

▲ A bushfire is heading towards your home - your're on your own, or with small children - what should you do?

To register for the workshop please contact the Centre on 97612139.

Prepare Your Firebreaks Now

By now all ratepayers should have received a copy of the Shire's Firebreak Order for 2008-09. Some changes have been made this year so property owners and occupiers are encouraged to read their Firebreak Order to ensure they comply with all conditions.

If you have not yet received your copy of the Firebreak Order, or you would like any further information, please contact the Shire's Ranger on 97611411 or 0428 911 847.

A reminder that permits are required for ALL fires after 1 November 2008.

Bridgetown High School as they refine their skills ready for another bush fire season.

There will be fire safety information and firefighting equipment on display and information on how to become a member of your local fire service. Food and drinks will also be available.

Further information can be obtained from Brian and Pam Hamence on 9761 2872.

Fire safety Information Nights

The Shire of Bridgetown - Greenbushes is proud to host two fire safety information sessions for Bridgetown and Greenbushes Residents. Topics will include how to prepare your property for the fire season, whether you should stay or leave in the event of a fire as well as having the opportunity to speak to Fire and Emergency Services Officers afterwards on specific issues. The dates for the Fire Safety Information sessions are:

- Greenbushes Town Hall on Wednesday 19 November 2008 7.00 pm- 8.30 pm
- Bridgetown Town Hall on Wednesday 26 November 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

These sessions are free to attend. For further information, contact the Shire's Community Emergency Services Manager on 0428 611 125.

New Fire Unit For The Hester Brook Bush Fire Brigade

Hester Brook Bush Fire Brigade recently received a new Toyota fast attack appliance, replacing their 13 year old Landcruiser that has served them well in past years. The new vehicle, valued at \$100,000 and funded by FESA's Emergency Services Levy, helps ensure that the Brigade is well prepared for the coming fire season. The vehicle will officially be handed over to the Brigade at the South West Volunteer Bush Fire Games on the 11 October 2008.

Summertime is Ross River Virus Time

As the weather warms up and people spend more time outdoors, the risk of contracting Ross River Virus increases. Now is the time to think about how you can minimise this risk.

- ▲ Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active, at sunset and dawn
- ▲ Cover up with loose, light coloured clothing
- ▲ Use an effective mosquito repellent
- ▲ Control backyard breeding by keeping containers and gutters clear of water, and by covering or sealing rainwater tanks

Community Services Department

The recent restructure of the Shire's Community Services Department has seen the management of the Library, Recreation Centre, Visitors Centre, Community Development and Youth Development merge under the new Executive Manager position. Taking on the challenging role of Community Development Officer is Lesa Boni who has returned after maternity leave.

Lesla will be working on a part-time basis predominantly being in the office each Monday and Tuesday. The restructure has also resulted in an extension of hours for the Youth Development Officer and Megan Richards is now working 3 days each week on youth related issues.

Meet our Newest Aussie

At the September Council Meeting, Allan Tucknott made the Citizenship Pledge in front of Shire President Brian Moore.



• Allan Tucknott with Shire President Brian Moore

Warren-Blackwood Region: Industrial Sites Study

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) has recently released the Industrial Sites Study for the Warren-Blackwood Region. The purpose of the study is to identify a site or sites suitable for a sub-regional industrial estate, along the South Western Highway transport corridor, which will assist the region to gain a competitive advantage that will attract new businesses to the area, creating local economic and employment benefits. A copy of the Study document is available for public viewing at the Shire Offices, 1-3 Steere Street, Bridgetown or a limited number of CDs are available (free of charge). Alternatively the document can be downloaded by accessing the WAPC website at www.wapc.wa.gov.au/Publications/507.aspx.

Know any Local Heroes?

Do you know of a person who has made an outstanding contribution to our community? Perhaps you know of a community group or specific event that has added value to our local community? If so, why not nominate them for the Australia Day Awards, which will be announced during the traditional Community Breakfast on Australia Day 2009.

These awards are presented as a means of recognising individuals and groups whose hard work, dedicated service and inspiring actions benefit the Bridgetown-Greenbushes communities. There are three specific award categories:

- * Citizenship Award for a person 25 years of age or older
- * Citizenship Award for a person under 25 years of age
- * Citizenship Award for a community group or event

Nomination forms are available from the Customer Service Area at the Shire offices. Completed nomination forms (including supporting information) should be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to the CEO. Nominations close at 4.30pm on Friday 21 November 2008.

Community Christmas Party in the Park

A scary thought – Christmas is less than one third of the year away!

The Shire will once again host its annual Christmas Party for the Community in Memorial Park from 5:30pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday 17th December. Information regarding the annual Christmas Party will be circulated a bit closer to the time, however please keep this date in your diary.

News in Brief

▼ The Swimming Pool staff are gearing up for the next season with the pool scheduled to open on 1st November.

▼ The Shire, in conjunction with the Shire's of Donnybrook-Balingup and Nannup is seeking expressions of interest from consultants to undertake a feasibility study regarding the proposed development of a regional off-road vehicle area.

The project is aimed at providing an adequate venue to cater for a wide range of off-road vehicle requirements and the development of the feasibility study will include a needs assessment, potential site identification, community consultation, research and liaison with relevant stakeholders. The closing date for the expressions of interest is Friday, 24th October.

▼ Don't throw away your old mobile phones and batteries. The "mobile muster" program makes it easy for you to recycle these – just drop them into the bins that are located in the Shire's Customer Service Area and at the Bridgetown Waste Disposal Site.

▼ At the Council meeting held on 25 September 2008 the draw took place for the "Pay Your Rates Early" competition. The winners were:

- 1st Prize – Ken Doust
 - 2nd Prize – Julie Webber
 - 3rd Prize – Neil & Rosemary Wells
- Our congratulations are extended to the winners and the Shire takes this opportunity of thanking all of those ratepayers who paid their rates early.

Youthbizz from Megan

Hello everyone, since I last wrote in the Insight there has been some major changes to the Department of Community Services. This has signified a positive and collaborative approach in the areas of Community and Youth Development which has been really exciting. I have also increased my hours from one day per week to 3 days per week, consequently, a lot is happening and a lot of activities are being planned for the next few months.

The Shire has been working hard towards a youth event at the Blues Festival. The event is SK8'n'Blues. This event will be held on the Saturday of the Blues weekend, between 2.00pm and 6.00pm and will involve a open BMX and Skate jam facilitated by 'Freestyle Now' and an open air music event. The musical performers will include the bands from Bridgetown High School years 8, 9 and 10, past

students and Blues musicians. The initial organisation of this event has been fully supported and assisted by the Blues at Bridgetown Committee, the year 10 Band, work experience students at the Shire and some of the BMX riders from the skate park. This will be a fantastic youth event, and I will keep you up to date as we progress.

The Rethink Drink Youth Activities Program at the Show will be bigger than ever. There will be tree climbing, circus performers and work shops, Juncus percussion workshops and performance, fire juggling and dancing, BMX stunt riding, the Scouts climbing wall, art workshops, youth street theatre, face painting and more.... The youth program will all be based at the 'Drum&Base' youth marquee...see you there.

The Shire is also going to start holding a youth 'hang-out' night at the

Recreation Centre. This will begin on the first Friday in December from 6.00pm - 9.00pm and will continue at the same time on the first Friday of each month. Food and drinks will be provided, BYO music/DVDs, and let us know what else you would like to include. This will be a great opportunity to hang-out with your friends away from home and school. These events will be coordinated by the YAC, Youth Development Officer and Recreation Centre staff.

I am currently working on a youth holiday program for January school holidays. This program is in collaboration with the Bridgetown Family and Community Centre. The holiday program will be great fun and should include paint-balling, movies and a trip to Adventure World... Sounds Good!

'Nuisance Pets on Increase'

Shire Rangers and the Admin office staff have been receiving calls concerning barking dogs, crowing roosters and other nuisances relating to pets. This is despite there being strong legislation and penalties prohibiting many of the practices, and clearly placing the onus on the owners of the pets to abate the

nuisances. In addition to the Dog Act, the Shire has local laws that address the 'Keeping of Animals' within a townsite, in the Shire.

While complaints regarding barking dogs is still the most prevalent complaint received, complaints about crowing roosters

and peacocks, and straying animals are on the increase.

The local laws prohibit the keeping of a rooster, goose, turkey, peafowl, game-bird or large animal (including a horse, cow, pig, sheep, goat, etc.), within a townsite, without first obtaining the written approval of the Council.

DOG REGISTRATION INFORMATION

A friendly reminder that all dogs aged 12 weeks (three months) and over must be registered with the Shire, even if the dog doesn't leave your property. Dog registration renewals are in the process of being sent out for this year for all dogs with blue registration tags. If your dog is not currently registered, please make arrangements to do so as soon as possible.

Failure to register your dog may result in a \$100 on-the-spot infringement or up to \$500 in court.

A Ranger will be visiting your area soon to conduct a dog registration door-knock. All dogs are required to wear a collar with a registration tag and an owner's name and address tag at all times. Registering your dog and ensuring it has its registration tag on is the best insurance you have of getting your dog back in the event of your dog going missing. Please use a home address, not a post office box number when registering your dog - we can't fit a dog into a PO Box!

If you have changed your address since registering your dog (either with this Shire or with another Council), it is very important that you call us and update your details.

To register your dog, contact the Shire Offices Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 4.30pm. Telephone: 9761 1555.

STANDARD FEES

	1 Year	3 Years
Unsterilised Male or Female Dog	\$30.00	\$75.00
Sterilised Male or Female Dog	\$10.00	\$18.00

The concession for a sterilised dog can only be obtained upon production of a registered Veterinary Surgeon's Sterilisation Certificate or Statutory Declaration signed by the Dog Owner. Should you register your dog as unsterilised and then have it sterilised, you are entitled to a pro-rata refund of the difference in fee.

PENSIONER FEES (50% of Standard Fees payable)

Unsterilised Male or Female Dog	\$15.00	\$37.50
Sterilised Male or Female Dog	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.00

In addition to the local laws prohibiting the keeping of certain animals and birds, like roosters, without written approval, they also limit the number of poultry that can be kept to 12 hens, and set down the minimum standard by which approved animals and birds will be kept enclosed.

Large animals are really only suited to bigger lots, many of which do fall within the townsites, and even in those instances written approval is still required.

Owners of pets should be considerate of their neighbours and take steps to stop any nuisance their pet could cause, after all happy neighbours make good neighbours.

Pet owners wishing to seek further clarification on whether they are within a townsite or about the keeping of animals, including what they can do about their barking dog, should contact the Shire Ranger (9761 1411) in the first instance.



Rec. Centre News

TERM 4 PROGRAM

What's Rollin at the Rec....

As we roll out of another wet and wild winter we are warming up for spring!

The Term 4 Timetable has been finalised with some exciting news for Mum's! We are introducing 9.00am classes Monday, Wednesday, & Friday so that you can drop off the "kids" then come straight to the Rec and drop off some "pounds" Our crèche will be opening at 8.45am to allow plenty of time for children to be delivered prior to the class. For those of you who have not yet participated in our fantastic aerobics classes, what are you waiting for? Come on down and take a look, our staff would love to give you a tour of "YOUR" recreation centre!

"Bend it backwards" for Gymnastics! We welcome Sasha van Diemen and her family to Bridgetown! Sasha will be introducing gymnastics mid way through Term 4, and would love to hear from you should your child be interested in coming along. Our classes will be held on Wednesday afternoons and will be advertised in the school newsletter...so stay tuned! Please contact Sasha on 9764 3990 or 0439 343 081 to find out more!

Basketball bounces back! The Bridgetown Basketball Association is welcomed back for another action packed season - training begins on 20 October with competition commencing on 23 October.

TERM PROGRAMS

With the kids now back to school why not send them to one of our term programs. These include:

❖ Kindy Kapers - beginning on the 20 October, this program offers 50 mins of fun for 1yr+ children each Monday morning at 9.30am. The kids enjoy exercise, music and play on our colourful and challenging equipment designed to develop self confidence and physical skills.

❖ Painless Pump - Each Friday morning at 10.40am this world class fitness program is modified for beginners to help with strength training, rehabilitation from injury or illness or for anybody wanting to start a fitness program. This class is an enjoyable way to learn the basics of weight training with expert instruction on technique provided.

❖ Work-it continuesSo move it or lose it! We have had great response to our supervised gymnasium sessions for high school students, with Kathleen Holdsworth. Come down and check it out on Wednesdays from 15 October at 4pm! The cost is \$6 and water, towel and enclosed shoes are essential.

VENUE OPTIONS

Are you looking for a venue to hold an event? The Recreation Centre may fulfill your requirements. We can accommodate:

- Birthday Parties
- Youth Activities
- Meetings
- Conferences
- Sports Carnivals and more!

The complex includes three sports courts, a meeting room and kitchen. For further information on all activities or centre hire, please contact our friendly staff at the Rec Centre on 9761 2966.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

The Living Longer Living Stronger program, a strength training program for over 50's has been running for some time now. If you are not already a part of the program and would like more information about it, please feel free to contact the Recreation Centre or the Council of the Ageing on 9321 2133.

For further information on all activities or centre hire, please contact our friendly staff at the Rec Centre on 9761 2966.

Between the Lines at Your Library

Bridgetown Library recently held a very successful book sale, thank you to all who came in and picked up many bargains. The book sale has resulted in the shelves being cleared to make room for new books which the Shire will purchase shortly. If you have any suggestions of authors or titles you would like to see on the shelves, please call into the library and mention to the library officer on duty, and we will do our best to purchase appropriate titles.

A very special thank you to all our volunteers, we couldn't have gone ahead with the book sale without you.

"SPRING PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION".

The library has decided to get into the spirit of spring with a photographic competition. Take a photograph showcasing what you think shows "Spring in Bridgetown" and bring it to the library. A printed version of either film or digital photographs is preferred but an electronic version on a portable device that we can use to print a copy is also acceptable. You can also email a photograph to us on library@bridgetown.wa.gov.au. The competition is open to all ages, don't forget to attach your name and phone number to all entries. Entries close on Friday 10th October and will be displayed in the library.