

Shire **CONNECT**



Redevelopment of Bridgetown Town Hall

In an earlier news article we shared the exciting announcement of state government investment in Bridgetown's Town Hall Redevelopment Project. You can read that news article [here](#).

This project will see a complete refurbishment of the Historic Town Hall and Civic Centre. This includes a significant upgrade of equipment for the lighting, audio and staging elements, air conditioning, and seating. This will allow for improvements in the facility as a venue for live music, theatre, film and other art and cultural activities. There will also be a new art display mobile system for art exhibitions and an

upgrade of the commercial kitchen and ablutions as well as interior design elements including painting and curtains.

This project is being funded by the Shire, the WA State Government and Lotterywest. The Bridgetown Town Hall and Civic Centre will be closed for the renovations from 31 December 2020 through until 30 June 2021.

We are currently liaising with other venues in town to compile a list of 'alternative facility options' for community use during this period and will share this information as soon as possible to assist with event planning.

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Want to be in the know?

This publication is also available on the Shire website and you can subscribe to receive it by email.

To subscribe or to access additional news stories, as well as Council meeting agendas and minutes, and much more, visit the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes website: bridgetown.wa.gov.au



Hybrid Electric Vehicle

In October we ordered our first Hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) a Toyota RAV4 AWD. This is an exciting opportunity to explore the viability of electric vehicles. HEV's are sometimes considered the stepping stone between cars with conventional internal combustion engines and pure electric vehicles (EV).

HEV's essentially combine the two and therefore consume less fuel. The electric motor drives the wheels for part of the time, especially from a standstill or at lower speeds and assists for the rest of the journey. Hybrids in EV mode have no harmful emissions from the exhaust.

Pure electric vehicles struggle to perform well in regional areas because when the electricity runs out they have to be recharged. This can take from 30 minutes to 24 hour recharge time, depending on power source and battery size. Recharge stations are not always readily accessible.

When the electricity runs in the HEV, the combustion engine takes over in running the vehicle, and this recharges the electric engine. This gives HEV's greater range, and avoids the possibility of the battery going flat miles from a recharge station.

Vehicle production factories are still catching up on back orders following COVID-19 closures. The new vehicle is expected to arrive in January 2021.



Investigation into Renewable Energy Possibilities



During 2020 we undertook an energy audit review in partnership with H2 Energy Solutions to explore energy tariffs and to investigate the benefits of retro fitting solar systems on the Shire buildings including the Library, Civic Centre (Town Hall, Lesser Hall and Shire Administration Building), Leisure Centre, Visitor Centre, Fire Control Centre and Works Dept.

This audit identified that investment in solar systems for each building would result in savings of between \$1.6k and \$13.4k per annum on energy bills. These savings would achieve a return on capital expenditure incurred in installing the systems of between 2.3 and 4.4 years.

The audit noted the existing system on the Library (which can be expanded) and the recent system installed at the Leisure Centre (on the pool buildings). You can review the full audit report on the Shire's website (see

Shire News Story dated 18 November 2020).

We are now currently investigating battery storage options to compliment and further maximize the investment in solar systems for Council to make a decision on when and how to best retro fit our buildings with solar. The preferred option would be to install 6 systems at the same time. This is estimated to cost \$96,663. Installation of batteries would be an extra cost, but would achieve further long term benefit as the energy we produce can be stored and used round the clock.

Once the final research and costings are completed, Council will consider funding this project by the Federal Government COVID-19 Stimulus Funding. This will require both Council and the Federal Government approval, and once available works could commence in the current financial year.

Consultation Held for Shire Strategic Planning

A passionate group of 74 Shire residents joined specialist consultant Lisa Lough in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening 10th November to hear about the outcomes and findings of the recent Scorecard Survey. We were delighted to see so many people join in the conversation around the Shire's performance with a strong focus on improvement and the future.

We will circulate a Scorecard report as soon as possible (November) to further share the findings of the survey as well as the input from last night. This report will inform the development of our new Strategic Community Plan which we will have ready to share with you in December. The draft Plan will be



circulated for further feedback and comment. The consultation period for the Plan will be a long one, through until February, because of the festive season

and school holidays. This will give us plenty of time for further conversations with you before the report is finalized. Stay tuned for more details!

Awareness Critical for Upcoming Bushfire Season

Our district has experienced major fires in recent years, all of which had potential to cause significant property damage and threat to human life. In the aftermath of these fires the local community expressed a desire for the Shire to adopt a more vigilant approach to ensuring property owners comply with the Firebeak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice.

Specific requirements vary depending on the size and use of your land. To view the Order, check your rates package, visit the Shire website or visit the Shire front counter to pick up a new copy. Owners of non-compliant properties will receive Bush Fire Work Orders or Infringements.

Blackwood Youth Action Named Tidy Towns Award Finalists

We recently met with members and staff of Blackwood Youth Action to hear more about their successful nomination in the Young Legends category of the WA Tidy Towns Awards.

The winners of the individual categories and the overall "Tidy Town" state winner will be announced at an awards luncheon in Perth on Friday 27 November. During the interview, we also learned more about what

Blackwood Youth Action has to offer for young people in the community in way of activities, events, education and other opportunities.

If you are curious about joining or supporting this important community organization this short video is jam packed with interesting information. You can view the video via the Shire News webpage.



CHRISTMAS

Pool Party



Bridgetown Leisure Centre Pool
Saturday 19 December 4pm –6pm

Pool inflatables | Bouncy castle | Climbing wall
Father Christmas | Ice cream | Sausage sizzle

Free entry from 3.30pm onwards

For more information call 9761 2966

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**Bridgetown
Leisure Centre**

Shire of
Bridgetown-Greenbushes

