



COUNCIL COMMENTS

In order to keep the residents of Mount Magnet advised of what is happening in the Shire, we are going to try and produce a quarterly newsletter. Being that this is the first newsletter, it is quite a large one. Hopefully with more regular newsletters, the size will be a little smaller.

CARAVAN PARK UPGRADE

Have you seen the changes to our park?

For many years, the Mount Magnet Caravan Park has been running at a loss to the Community. This means that some of your rates are going towards the operating and maintenance of the Caravan Park. Over the last 5 years, the average loss has been approximately \$46,000 per year. This is of concern to the Shire of Mount Magnet.

In order to reverse this trend and change the Caravan Park into a “*Cash positive and sustainable venture*”, the Shire of Mount Magnet has resolved to expand the caravan park and provide additional accommodation. The overall Capital costs are estimated at \$398,000. The expansion and upgrades will be done in several ways.

RV Dump Point

The Shire has signed an agreement with the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia for the supply of an RV “Ezy Dump” dump point to be installed in the caravan park. This facility will attract tourists with motor homes to our area. It is also envisaged that the installation of the dump point will encourage the Motorhome tourists to stay in our area and therefore increasing our tourism.

Additional Camping Area

The area at the eastern side of the Caravan Park is being levelled and infill sand dumped. This is to convert this area into a “tent area” and allow more tents into the caravan park. Additional to this is the installation of a “Campers Kitchen” which will also provide another BBQ facility for the park. This is scheduled to be installed in November this year.



More Powered Sites

During the main tourism season, the current caravan park is constantly booked out and tourists have to go elsewhere to stay. Often they go to another caravan park (eg: Cue), therefore leaving our town.

The Shire has begun dumping sand at the northern end of the caravan park. The intention is to create additional powered sites in this area. The Shire will be trying to close Warren Street and convert it into

a laneway. This will allow for greater expansion of the park while still allowing access to the rear of the properties in Hepburn Street. Due to the road closure, this project will take some time before completion.

Onsite Accommodation

At the recent Harmony Auction, Council purchased several units to create some extra onsite accommodation. One of these will be for a disabled access to assist with Council's Disability Access Plan. Originally it was planned for this accommodation to be donated by a mining company, however this did not eventuate.

These actions should enable Council to eliminate the previous operating deficit of the caravan park.

The accommodation units have been shifted to the old southern part of the caravan park and Council is currently considering whether to use all the units or only some. They will not be connected to the power, water or septic until Council's final decision is made. The costs of these are to be funded from a loan. The increased revenue from the changed operations will repay the loan.

If you are interested in further information with regards to the developments of the Caravan Park, a copy of the Business Plan is available at the Shire Office.

Will the Tourists come?

In order to ensure that the caravan park receives more guests to fill the new areas, the Shire has allocated additional funding for advertising and promotion of not just the caravan park, but for the whole of the Shire of Mount Magnet. Our aim is to ensure that as many tourists as possible will be attracted to stay in our town. This way the whole town will benefit, from the accommodation business, the hotels, the service station, the butcher, the supermarket, and other small businesses, will all benefit from the additional people in our town.

A total amount of \$35,000 has been allocated for the 2008/2009 towards additional events for the area. This is to get the people to come to our town. Council has made an allowance for additional movies to be screened throughout the season. This will be in the open cinema or in the hall on the new screen during inclement weather. There are only 3 open air cinemas left operating in WA, therefore a unique attraction of the town

The Shire is also looking at other ways to increase tourism to our town. The Shire of Mount Magnet is currently looking at the possibility of forming a Tourism Advisory Committee. This committee will have the function of providing advice to Council on where the additional funds for tourist promotion can be spent to best promote our town. Members of this committee may also be requested to assist with major functions to be held in town.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

Due to a change in the telephone service to the Shire Office, the main number has now changed. In order to call the Shire Office, the new number is 9963 3000. The old number will continue to work for a short while with a recorded message for the new number before the old number is stopped completely.

The fax number will remain the same 9963 4133.



AIRPORT SECURITY UPGRADE

The Airport Security Upgrade works have begun. There are three projects for the upgrading of our airport. These are electrical and lighting works, security fencing and a new terminal building. The overall capital costs have been estimated to be \$409,700. A substantial portion of this will be grant funded.

Electrical and Lighting Works

Wellington Electrical has been awarded this tender. The electrical works is to connect the lighting system to mains power rather than relying on the current aging generator. This will also provide additional lighting for the airport terminal and plane parking area of the airport. The cabling for this works has been laid. The lighting towers will be erected very shortly.

Security Fencing

DBS Fencing Contractors has been awarded the tender for security fencing. The new security fencing will be erected around the terminal building area of the airport. This will allow for additional security measures and assist in preventing animals from straying onto the runway. This work will be starting on about the 27th October. The contractor has indicating that a team will be sent up and should have the works completed within a couple of weeks.

New Terminal Building

The tender for the new terminal building was awarded to Murchison Carpentry. The construction of the new terminal should be completed in early 2009. The new terminal will provide a better entry point into our shire for any visitors flying into town.

The old terminal will be removed once the new terminal is operating.

CEMETERY GAZEBO/NICHE WALL

A new Gazebo and Niche wall have been constructed at the Mount Magnet Cemetery. This has been encompassed in brick paving through to the driveway. The car park on the southern side of the road has also been gravelled to provide an adequate area for vehicles. The new facilities will enable funeral services to be conducted at the cemetery if the family's wish.

If anyone is interested in having ashes inserted into the niche wall, please contact the shire office.



In the future Council would like to see the rest of the cemetery tidied up as this is an attraction for tourist passing through. The cemetery is a part of the history of Mount Magnet.

Council staff have noted that there are graves in the back of the cemetery, yet there are no records of the burials. If anyone has any information on the graves please let the Shire Officers know. We would like to have some details and possibly a memorial plaque erected in this area in the future.

COMPETITIONS

Garden Competition

Many thanks to the Councillors who assisted in the judging of the gardens for this years Garden Competition. It was great to see so many gardens that had obviously had a lot of work and time spent on them. This year the winners of the Garden Competition were:

- 1st Prize: \$200.00 sponsored by Imerkate Haulage Co
B & K Gaines
53 Watson Street
- 2nd Prize: \$100.00 sponsored by Shire of Mount Magnet
S Singh
29 Hepburn Street
- 3rd Prize: \$75.00 Sponsored by Shire of Mount Magnet
B Norman & E Ritchie
6 Priestley Street
- 4th Prize: \$50.00 sponsored by Shire of Mount Magnet
R & O Kelly
44 Priestley Street

Other gardens that only just missed out were:

J&N Delafante – 75-77 Attwood Street
J & F Munroe – 9 Watson Street
R Little – 19 Watson Street
A Duff – 15 Watson Street
B Baumgarten & C Sleeman – 7 Attwood St.
B Hinds – 31 Hepburn Street.

Congratulations to these people on some fantastic front gardens and a special thanks to everyone that has a garden to help beautify our town.

Christmas Lights Competition.

Residents are reminded that the annual Christmas Lights Competition will be held again this year. It is now time to start dusting off all those lights and decorations. Once again the Councillors will be prowling the streets to see who has the best Christmas Lights display.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

A part of the Australia Day family of awards, the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards focuses on community contribution and participation rather than personal achievement.

They are run in many councils around the state as a joint initiative of the Australia Day Council of Western Australia, the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the Office of Premier and Cabinet.

The Shire of Mount Magnet has adopted the awards program so people can nominate an inspiring community member or group from your area for an award to be presented at a ceremony on Australia Day - 26 January. The three awards highlight active citizenship, outstanding contribution to the local community and Australian pride and spirit. Choose the one that suits your nominee:

- outstanding community contribution by a local citizen
- outstanding community contribution by a local citizen under 25 years of age
- outstanding community contribution by a local group or community event

Submit your nomination to the Shire of Mount Magnet by the fourth Friday in November. The awards will be made at the Australia Day Celebrations.

FOSTER/FEDERATION PARK UPGRADE

Foster and Federation Parks are to receive several upgrades this year. Since the installation of the lawn in this area, the park has been utilised a lot more by member of the public and also tourists. The overall estimated capital costs for these upgrades total \$154,000.

New Toilet Facility

A 5 stall public toilet facility is currently being constructed for the park area. This will include a disabled toilet / parent room. This toilet will provide an adequate facility for the tourist and locals alike as it will be open everyday rather than just when an adjoining facility is open.

Other Upgrades

Other upgrades to the park area include a Gazebo that has been partly donated to Council by Challa Station, installation of lighting to the area and also a public BBQ facility.

Council will also be installing some shade structures and new playground equipment early in 2009.

ANZAC HALL REPAIRS

The upgrades to Anzac Hall have begun. The entrance ramp for disable access has been completed. The inside of the main hall has had the old wood panelling removed and new boarding put in place.

Works will be continuing on the entire facility. This will include the sanding of the floorboards and repairs to the dressing rooms.

A budget allocation of approximately \$72,000.00 has been allocated for Anzac Hall.

Future works will also include an upgrade to the air-conditioning system.



MRVC FENCE CONTRACTORS

The Murchison Regional Vermin Council is looking for contractors, either as individuals or as teams, to repair the Vermin Control Fence. Contractors must supply their own vehicle and tools. The MRVC will supply all the materials for the fencing.

If you would like the opportunity to assist with the maintenance of this vital fence, please contact the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Mount Magnet during office hours for further details.

TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Shire of Mount Magnet is looking at forming a Tourism Advisory Committee to advise the Council on ways to boost tourism for the shire.

At the Annual Electors Meeting it was requested that the Shire pursue tourism as a way of ensuring the survival of Mount Magnet rather than relying solely on the mining industry. The Shire has allocated additional funding of \$35,000 in the 2008/2009 Financial Year in order to boost tourism to the area. We are now requesting interested persons to assist with this project.

The Tourism Advisory Committee is likely to be a Committee of 12 people, if possible, from various areas of the Community. These are likely to be:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 x Councillors | 2 x Business Representatives |
| 2 x Tourism Representatives | 2 x Community Representatives |
| 2 x Historical Representatives | 2 x Open Representatives |

This Committee will be able to engage the community and examine possibilities of how we can attract people to Mount Magnet and encourage them to stay rather than passing through. The Committee will then make recommendations to Council for activities and information relating to tourism in Mount Magnet. The Committee may also be responsible for assisting with the running of events.

If you feel you have an aptitude for Tourism and would like to help our town thrive, please contact the Shire on 9963 3000 and leave your name, contact details and representation.

RETICULATION PROBLEMS

Over the last few months we have been constantly plagued with reticulation problems at the main oval and also for the main street. Every time one repair was carried out another problem would arise. Part of this was also the bore pump for the water tank.

Main Oval

The main reticulation controller for the oval stopped functioning. This has been replaced and the sprinklers are now functioning. We will be watering the oval as much as possible to bring it back to green.

Additional sprinklers will be added to the north-east section of the oval to cover the area that does not get watered.

Main Street

Due to the bore pump failing, the main street has been on mains water. This does not provide enough water pressure to get the water through the new reticulation and has caused problems. This has also meant that the shire gardeners have had to water some areas manually with sprinklers.

The bore pump has now been replaced so that we can switch back to the water tank. This should alleviate the problems with the watering of the main street, however the staff will monitor this and if need be, consultants will be called in to resolve the issues.

DOG REGISTRATIONS

Dog registrations are due on the 31st October. All dogs over 3 months old need to be registered with the Shire of Mount Magnet. To register or renew the registration of your dog, please go to the Shire Office. If you wish to claim the sterilised concession you will need proof of the sterilisation. **All dogs over 3 months old need to be registered.**



A pensioner concession is available for eligible pensioners.

| Type of Dog | 1 YEAR | 3 YEARS |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Unsterilised | \$30.00 | \$75.00 |
| Sterilised | \$10.00 | \$18.00 |
| Unsterilised Farm/Stock | \$ 7.50 | \$18.75 |
| Sterilised Farm/Stock | \$ 2.50 | \$ 4.50 |

SWIMMING POOL

The swimming season has started. Once again the entry for the pool is free of charge. The pool opening times are:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Monday – Friday | Saturday & Sunday |
| 6.00am – 7.00am | 10.00am – 6.00pm |
| 10.00am – 6.00pm | |

Parents are reminded that children under the age of 10 years are the PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY and must be supervised at all times. If you leave the pool area for any reason, your children must leave with you.

No children of school age will be permitted into the pool area during school hours unless for a school excursion. Once again the rule of “*No School, No Pool*” applies.

BURNING PERIODS

Bush Fires Act 1954
Prohibited and Restricted Burning Period

It is hereby notified for public information that Prohibited and Restricted Burning Periods are as set out hereunder:

Restricted Burning Periods

(Permit required)

1st October 2008 to 14th November 2008

1st April 2009 to 30th April 2009

Prohibited Burning Period

15th November 2008 to 31st March 2009

Burning may be carried out outside the above periods.



SHIRE OF
MOUNT MAGNET

POSTAGE
PAID
MT
MAGNET
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TO THE HOUSEHOLDER