



COUNCIL COMMENTS

It is time again for another update of council news and what is happening in the Shire of Mount Magnet. Firstly, I would just like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a very successful 2009.

CARAVAN PARK UPGRADE

The Caravan Park upgrade is continuing.

Council resolved to install all of the units purchased from Harmony into the Caravan Park. These units are currently being connected to utilities and will then be ready for use in time for the 2009 tourist season. The charges for the units were determined in an effort to ensure that they are not under the current market price for other accommodation in the town. The new fees are available from the shire office.

The Campers Kitchen is completed. New BBQ facilities, a microwave, refrigerator and tables have been included to help campers and caravaners using the facility.

There are still a few things yet to be done, but the majority of building works are now completed. Extensions to the Caravan Park to provide more powered sites are planned for the next 12-14 months.



The extensions to the caravan park will enable additional people to stay in town and spend locally, therefore supporting local businesses and helping the town.

Many thanks to the staff of the shire and the many contractors involved with the caravan park projects for their hard work and effort with these upgrades.

VEHICLE TENDER – CEO VEHICLE

Council is due to replace the CEO's vehicle. The sale of the current vehicle, a Toyota Prado GXL will be done through public tender. Anyone interested in tendering for the old vehicle must do so in writing.

The tender will close on the 20th February. No tenders may be accepted if lower than the trade-in price of the vehicle.

For further details on the tender and to view the vehicle, please contact the Chief Executive Officer on 9963 3000.

AIRPORT SECURITY UPGRADE

The security upgrade of the Airport is completed. The upgrade was for a new security fence around the terminal area, connection to mains power and for new lights to be installed for the apron area. These works have now been completed. The lights certainly make it easier for Royal Flying Doctor Service flights and patient transfers.



New Terminal Building

Anyone who has been out to the airport recently would have seen the progress of the new terminal building. The terminal should be completed and functional in March. Once completed, the old terminal will be removed. The new terminal will make for a much improved service for passengers to and from Mount Magnet, be a better entry statement than current facilities and be an asset to the area.

COMPETITIONS

Christmas Lights

Many thanks to Cr Williams who assisted in the judging of the Christmas lights for this years Competition. Only a few houses had lights this year. Hopefully we can have a few more next year.

This year the winners were:

1st Prize: \$200.00
J & W McGorman

2nd and 3rd Prize: \$175.00
This was a joint prize as it was too hard to choose a second and third place. Therefore it was decided to make it a joint second place. The winners will received \$87.50 each.
E Ritchie
R Aitchison

Congratulations to these people on some fantastic light displays.

NEW LOADER

As part of its plant replacement program, Council resolved at a special meeting in January to purchase a new Volvo L90F loader from CJD Equipment. The loader will be replacing the current Volvo L90D loader which has seen better days.

The new loader is expected to be delivered in 3 weeks.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Many Congratulations to Sharon Duncan, this years Citizen of the Year. For those who don't know Sharon, she is always tirelessly working for the Mount Magnet St John's Ambulance Sub-Centre. A purely voluntary position, Sharon has taken it upon herself to ensure that the sub-centre and ambulances are always manned and ready to go whenever there is an emergency.



Sharon is always willing to hear from new volunteers who are wishing to assist the ambulance service. If you are interested, please call Sharon on 0438 395703.

Congratulations also to Raymond Little and Jim McGorman. They received a Certificate of Commendation for their services to the community. Raymond is always willing to help members of the community when they are having vehicle problems. Jim McGorman is the Captain of the Fire Brigade, another position that is purely voluntary and a great service to the community.

PAYMENT OF OVERDUE RATES

Ratepayers are advised that anyone with outstanding rates will soon be receiving a letter of demand for the payment of those outstanding rates. Failure to heed this notice will result in legal action being taken.

Please be advised that if you do not pay the rates on your property, Council may be forced to sell your property.

If you are currently experiencing financial difficulty and can not pay the rates in full, please contact the CEO or Senior Finance Officer with regards to setting up a payment arrangement. Arrangements will stop further debt collections measures as long as the arrangement is adhered to.

TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Many thanks to the volunteers for the Tourism Advisory Committee. These include Elva Ritchie, Karen Morrissey, Ronnie Hamilton, Marilyn Davies, Geoff and Anne Pilkington, Ian Black, Mellie Welsh, Greg and Tarnyia Scott, Karen Williams and Kevin Brand.

The Tourism Advisory Committee has looked at holding an Art Exhibition in Mount Magnet this year, but was concerned about the benefits to the community compared to costs, and the timescale to prepare for such an event. It was resolved to start advertising this year for an event to be held in 2010. The additional time will allow for a greater number of participants.

The committee will be looking at the Tourist Trails in Mount Magnet for improvements to entice people to the area, and what we can do to encourage people to stay longer in our town. The longer they stay, the more they will spend in town.

If anyone has any additional ideas that they would like the committee to consider, please send your ideas to the Shire Council or Committee. Anything that will help us promote our town will be of great assistance.

FIRE AT RECREATION CENTRE



It was disappointing that some individuals felt it necessary to set fire to the Recreation Centre on the 29th December 2008.

The fire has caused extensive damage to the buildings roof and ceiling. This will need to be replaced which will take considerable time and money. While the building is insured, the damage is likely to force into taking additional steps to ensure the protection of the building. Funding these additional security measures will mean that other projects marked in the budget may not be able to proceed. The community suffers from the destructive actions of the inconsiderate individuals responsible for this.

The fire has already caused additional expenses for Council to prepare for the Australia Day celebrations.

The fire at the Recreation Centre was the second of three fires deliberately lit during December. All residents are reminded to be mindful of the danger of setting fires and “playing with matches” and to keep matches and lighters safely away from children.

Anyone with any knowledge of the fire or if you hear of anything, please report the information to the local Police. You may be eligible for a reward of up to \$50,000 for your assistance.

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

Residents are reminded that we are currently in the PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD. That means that NO OPEN FIRES are allowed, even for a cookout.

Any fires spotted will be extinguished without warning. Fines may be issued to people lighting open fires in their yards.

The prohibited period is in force until the 31st March 2009.

SWIMMING POOL

Parents are reminded that all children under the age of 10 must have a parent or guardian present at all times. Parents are limited to only 4 children at any one time. After this, another parent must be present.

If at any stage parents leave the pool area, even for a cigarette out the front of the facility, you must take your children with you.

Any children found unattended will be required to leave the facility immediately. Repeat offenders will be refused entry. Remember the swimming pool is not a childcare service. These rules are to protect the safety of the children.

There also seems to be some confusion over the entry fees into the pool. Recently we have had several people state that the entry fee has been paid by an Indigenous Corporation. This is incorrect. Council resolved to waive all entry fees for everyone in an effort to stem the increasing amount of vandalism and graffiti in town. With the recent fires and destruction of Council property, it would appear that this has not been so. The free entry will be reconsidered for next season.

Parents and children are also reminded that the "No School, No Pool" rule will apply for 2009.

NEW SPORTS AND RECREATION OFFICER

The Shire of Mount Magnet is pleased to welcome Brad Smith to town. Brad is the new Sports and Recreation Officer. Some children may already know Brad from the basketball carnival last year.

Brad is a keen sportsperson and will be focusing on Sports and Recreation for adults as well as youth. Currently we are looking for anyone interested in cricket for the possibility of starting a Mount Magnet Cricket Team. If you think you are the next Gilly or Brett Lee, contact Brad on 0418 937 587.



DUMPING AT RUBBISH TIP

Anyone who has been out to the rubbish tip recently would have seen that there are a few changes. The main tipping pit has been converted into a proper tip. This is to try and stop the rubbish from blowing away and will allow the Shire easy control of the rubbish.

All users of the tip are requested to dump their rubbish in the pit provided, not just anywhere they happen to stop. Rubbish is being blown all over the tip site and causing major concern. This will then have to be picked up by hand at considerable costs to Council.

Please ensure that all rubbish is dumped into the correct areas of the rubbish tip. If rubbish is dumped correctly, then some of it can be recycled. This will extend the life of the rubbish tip and save ratepayers dollars.

POSTAGE
PAID
MT
MAGNET
6638



SHIRE OF
MOUNT MAGNET

TO THE HOUSEHOLDER