



# Shire Connect

Latest News and Updates from the Shire



*The DRTA have released a series of packages promoting the Collie Preston region.*

The March 13 State Election resulted in the Government retaining Collie-Preston seat, with a convincing win by Jodie Hanns to replace retiring member and Minister the Hon. Mick Murray MLA who first joined the Western Australian Parliament in 2001.

The Shire has always had a strong relationship with the member for Collie-Preston, and during the last term of the McGowan Government over \$15 million of project and facility funding has flowed into the Shire. Since 2017 the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer have met with Minister Murray monthly to strongly advocate for the Shire, which in 2020, after a formal presentation to the State Cabinet in Collie, resulted in the \$6 million COVID recovery grant for the redevelopment of the VC Mitchell Park precinct.

Naturally, we look forward to forging a similar relationship with Jodie Hanns and the new member for Warren Blackwood Jane Kelsbie, who replaces long serving and former Nationals leader the Hon Terry Redman MLA. We acknowledge Mr Redman's contribution to the South West since 2013. Following the redistribution of boundaries prior to the 2021 election, the Balingup end of the Shire is now part of the Warren Blackwood electorate.

We also acknowledge the re-election of local politician the Hon Dr Steve Thomas MLC as one of only two Liberals re-elected in the South West.

A comprehensive review of the Shire's Strategic Community Plan, which provides an all-embracing framework for the community's future needs and aspirations, is currently underway. Over the coming months, the community will be invited to participate in the process, through surveys, workshops and focus groups.

Early this month, the Shire President, CEO and Cr Wringe attended the Donnybrook Regional Tourism Association's website and Collie Preston tourism package launch. The holiday packages promote and connect Collie and Donnybrook as an attractive destination for those wishing to visit and stay in the region for a day or two.

With the iconic Easter Apple Festival reinstated this year, picking up the horticultural theme of our heritage, we encourage our locals and visitors alike to take the time to explore our own backyard and discover what is on offer. We should be proud of our heritage and history, so let's spread the good word.

Given the Easter Long Weekend is the last major weekend break until Christmas we are reminded that we all share the responsibility for road safety. Road traffic through our towns is expected to increase significantly over the holiday period, further challenged by major road works both south and north of Donnybrook. We urge all road users to exercise patience, courtesy, care, and common sense when travelling. We also acknowledge our dedicated emergency management personnel, be they full time or volunteers who work 24/7 towards reducing road trauma and other unplanned incidents.

Have a happy and healthy Easter break, wherever you and your family may be!

**Shire President Cr Brian Piesse and Chief Executive Officer Benjamin (Ben) Rose.**

**RESTRICTED BURNING TIMES 1 APRIL TO 26 APRIL 2021**

Dates are subject to change according to seasonal conditions. Contact your local Fire Control Officer for further information regarding permits. Details on the Shire website and in the 2020-21 Firebreak Order.