

SHIRE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MESSAGE

During Autumn, thousands of visitors headed to our region and to the Golden Valley Tree Park, our largest tourist attraction, to witness the spectacular display of colour that represents the change of seasons. On May 22, the Shire President attended a forum on the GVTP and recognised its contribution to the tourism industry in the south west region. The event also marked the launch of the 2021 Golden Valley Tree Park Conservation Appeal National Trust Australia (WA). We note the recent passing of Dr Chrissy Sharp, one of the formation Chairs of the GVTP, a member of the Legislative Council, a former Shire Councillor and avid conservationist.

The town of Donnybrook is buzzing. Over the past month, staff and contractors at the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup have been busy with several projects commencing, progressing and nearing completion. As the community would have seen over the past few months, the Donnybrook Town Centre has undergone a major refurbishment with the heritage listed Good Shed and Station Square precinct nearing completion. Under the Drought Community Funding, the Shire has been able to refurbish the main public toilets in the town centre. Unfortunately, delays to the temporary toilets due to the COVID lockdown at the beginning of this project caused several challenges. These have now been addressed, and this well overdue refurbishment is almost complete.

With funding from the Federal Government, the Apple Fun Park is undergoing a major makeover to ensure this iconic tourist attraction and town centre business driver maintains its supremacy as the best and most visited in the South West. While maintaining the Apple Fun Park theme, when completed, hopefully by the September school holidays, the park will be bigger and provide an increased number of unique activities. And yes, the apple pear statues are staying!

Across the road from the Apple Fun Park will be the site for the Donnybrook Pump Track. The design and construct tender is now open and Council will review these tenders in the coming months, with the plan to commence construction at the earliest. As part of this project a community driven proposal to recognise/honour our internationally acclaimed local Nitro Circus daredevil Josh Sheehan is being considered.

All these projects will deliver a major benefit to the local community and visitors to our region, as we remained focused on presenting our Shire as the core of the South West, while emerging as the gateway to the Southern Forest and Valleys region down to the South Coast.

We look forward to seeing the community come together to celebrate our local heritage and history on Saturday 19 June, when the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Hon Alannah McTiernan MLC will officially open the Heritage Goods Shed Interpretative Centre and Station Square.

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



Image of the Original Apple Fun Park (left) and digital artists impression of the upgraded Apple Fun Park (right), due for completion in September 2021.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS *Wednesday 26 May 2021*

- In accordance with its contractual obligations to the State Government, Council agreed to enter into discussions with the Department of Communities to consider the future operations of the Shire managed Well Aged Units at Minninup Cottages and Langley Villas.
- A petition received from residents along Farley Road to have the remaining 3km of gravel and dirt road sealed was considered and Council determined that Farley Road would continue to be maintained as a gravel road. A warning sign prior to the end of the existing sealed section advising that 'gravel road surface conditions change often' will be installed.
- Preliminary support was given to the proposed Balingup Townscape Committee Projects subject to the Balingup Progress Association approval.
- A request will be put to the Minister for Lands to close an unconstructed road reserve historically known as Hinde Street in Yabberup.
- Council has authorised the storage of soil material from the Main Roads WA Thompson's Hill road construction project at the Donnybrook Waste Management Facility for future use in rehabilitation activities and the construction of hard stand areas for Shire use. A one off contribution of \$50,000 will be paid to Main Roads towards the cost of transportation from Thompsons Hill to the Donnybrook Waste Management Facility. Public notice of the increased heavy haulage activity will be given.
- Council approved the inclusion of \$10,000 as a contribution to a Glen Mervyn Dam Open Water Swim event for consideration into the 2021-2022 draft budget.

Council Meeting Minutes are available on the Shire Website www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au

NEXT AGENDA BRIEFING SESSION: Wednesday 16 June, 2pm, Donnybrook Council Chambers

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday 23 June, 5pm, Donnybrook Council Chambers

ADVICE OF SHIRE WORKS June 2021

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup advises that the following works are in progress or programmed to commence in the near future. Please note all works are subject to weather conditions, therefore dates may change.

KIRUP MILL PARK PATHWAY Construction works for a pathway in Mill Park have begun and will continue into early June.

STANDPIPE INSTALLATION (BALINGUP AND DONNYBROOK) Installation works for a fully automated standpipe in Donnybrook and Balingup will continue to be progressed.

VC MITCHELL PARK BORE Works for installation of a bore to water VC Mitchell Park have begun with works continuing in June 2021.

BIANNUAL ROAD-SIDE VEGETATION AND WEED CONTROL The Biannual Road-side Vegetation and Weed Control Program is scheduled to finish in early June 2021 (weather permitting). A contractor will be engaged to undertake works on rural roads whilst the Shire's Parks and Gardens staff will be managing urban roads.

GRAVEL RESHEETING Works will be undertaken on sections of Lyons and Westlington Road in June 2021.

Hours of operation are normally between 7.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Works will be clearly signed and you are requested to exercise due care when travelling near or through these areas. Delays are expected to be minimal. Should you require further information, please contact the Shire Works and Services Department on 9780 4209.

SAVE THE DATE Sunday 4th July at 9am

Community Planting Day at the Preston River Foreshore

The Leschenault Catchment Council will be holding a Community Planting Day at the Preston River Foreshore. For more details visit www.leschenaultcc.org.au

Proudly supported by the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup



SHIRE RANGER AFTER HOURS NUMBER 0419 935 600

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