

Inside *Ashburton*

December 2023



Another *successful year*

2023 has been a great success in the Shire of Ashburton.

Achieving milestones and celebrating significant events such as the Solar Eclipse, we continued to go from strength to strength in the memorable delivery of services, projects and events across the four towns of Tom Price, Onslow, Paraburdoo and Pannawonica.

See the highlights from
2023 the year that was, page 6



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A note from our new Shire President, *President Audra Smith*

Hi Ashburton community,

I am deeply humbled and excited to address you as your new Shire President. This marks a new chapter and I couldn't be more enthusiastic about the journey we all have ahead.

I am filled with a deep sense of humility as it's a tremendous privilege to be in this role and as your Shire President. I am resolute in my commitment to transparency, focus, and

respect in all my dealings with the community and am fully dedicated to championing your aspirations and voices.

I am looking forward to collaborating with all levels of government and key stakeholders ensuring that our community receives the desired opportunities, investments and service delivery in all towns.

I firmly believe that by working together, the Council and residents can collectively achieve significant



success in shaping a more positive and inclusive future for everyone in Ashburton.

Please feel free to connect with me and I look forward to our journey over the next four years.

Introducing your new Shire of Ashburton *Council*



The 2023 Local Government elections were held on October 21 with the official Swearing in Ceremony taking place in Tom Price on October 25

Congratulations to the following candidates who have been elected to serve on the Shire of Ashburton Council each for four-year terms to 2027.

- Shire President: **Audra Smith**
- Deputy Shire President: Onslow Ward, **Kerry White**
- Ashburton-Tablelands Ward: **Rory DePledge** elected unopposed
- Paraburdoo Ward: **Linton Rumble**
- Tom Price Ward: **Tina Mladenovic**

Under the new backfilling provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* (Schedule 4.1B), Brie Healy was elected as Councillor for the Tom Price Ward, with the term of office expiring on 18 October 2025 following the election of current sitting Councillor Audra Smith being elected as the Shire's first popularly elected Shire President.

This activity meets Strategic Objective 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – Performance



President Smith Swearing in Ceremony



Shire-wide desexing campaign appointments full for 2023

The Shire of Ashburton partnered with Mineral Resources, Karratha Vet Hospital and SAFE to coordinate a free desexing campaign for cats and dogs across the Shire.

The Shire of Ashburton has successfully filled all available appointments for the 2023 Shire-wide desexing campaign.

In addition to desexing, the campaign included free microchipping, registration and microchip updates and parasite disease assessments.

Residents who missed out on the campaign and are still looking to desex their animals are encouraged to reach out to their closest veterinary clinic. A fantastic effort to all of those involved to ensure the safety and health of the pets across town. For more information, please contact Hamish.James@ashburton.wa.gov.au or call 0417 949 661.

This activity meets Strategic Objective 2 and 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – Place and Performance



Passion of the Pilbara

went off with a bang in 2023

Passion of the Pilbara (POP) returned to Onslow on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 August with headline act Jebediah, events and activities, live entertainment, food trucks and more for all ages to enjoy.

It was almost 23 years ago that Jebediah first entered the Australian music scene, and with six albums and years of awards and acclaim later, the Jebbs continue to captivate their devout fan base with their infectious energy and enthusiasm.

With face painting, amusement rides, giveaways and an unforgettable entertainment lineup there was something for everyone to enjoy. Kicking off the festival on Friday night was live entertainment, food trucks, market stalls, free amusement rides and the youth zone.

Saturday started with yoga at 7am outside Onslow Beach Resort, encouraging attendees to get their two stamps on their PoP Passport while enjoying the gentle breeze and rising sun, the perfect backdrop for people to come together.

The day followed with a culinary showcase from Andrea Puglisi to elevate your cooking from home chef to master chef, a very popular event!

The festival continued amusement rides, circus workshops, fairy shows, Youth Zone, and music from the talented Nadene Elly, Lisa Woodbrook, Family Shoveller Band, Underfire and of course the headline act, Jebediah.

All Passion of the Pilbara events were free to attend and family-friendly, with only food, beverages and games requiring payment. No ticket purchases were required for events.

Relive the day and see if you can spot yourself in the pictures!

Passion of the Pilbara 2023 was brought to you by the Shire of Ashburton with support from Woodside Energy, Mineral Resources Limited, Horizon Power and Pilbara Ports Authority.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1 and 3 of the Strategic Community Plan – People and Prosperity



The Shire's Future Defined by *Strategies and Budgets*

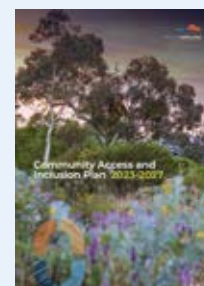
The Shire of Ashburton are pleased to announce the release of the following documents, outlining targets and plans for key projects as well as achieving social and capital investment across the region.

- 2023/2024 Budget
- Corporate Business Plan 2023 – 2027
- Youth Strategy 2023 – 2025
- Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2023 – 2027

The strategies and budgets are integral for our Shire to contribute to the achievement of Shire-wide community aspirations.

The following strategies and budgets can be found on our website here;
<https://www.ashburton.wa.gov.au/documents/>

This activity meets Strategic Objective 1 and 3 of the Strategic Community Plan – People and Prosperity



Onslow Community Boating Precinct fish filleting station now open

The opening of these facilities marks the completion of Stage 1 of the precinct, with the works creating modern recreational boating facilities for residents and visitors alike.



Upgrades to the precinct included the dredging of a new basin, construction of a two-lane boat ramp with central floating jetty, a car park and drainage, solar lighting, public amenities, and landscaping.

Approximately 45,000 cubic metres of sand and rock was dredged from the creek bed to create deeper waters for safe navigation to and from the boat ramp, which is protected by a rock revetment incorporating 20,000 tonnes of granite and recovered rock material.

Stage 2 of the project, which includes a small marina and further landside development, is currently in the advanced stages of design.

This project, undertaken by the Department of Transport was initiated by a major funding commitment from the Shire of Ashburton and provides modern, safe boating facilities for local and visiting boat owners.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Strategic Community Plan – People, Place and Prosperity



Council supports

heating of Shire owned Swimming Pools during the normal season

The Shire of Ashburton Council supported the concept at the 2023 August Ordinary Council Meeting.

The support comes as a result of a community petition that was received at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023, requesting pool heating at aquatic facilities in Tom Price and Paraburdoo.

The petition requested the Shire of Ashburton consider heating the mentioned pools to provide greater opportunities for their athletes, allowing them to maximise their time in the water from the day the pool gates open at the commencement of the pool season to the day they close, at the conclusion of the pool season.

The allocation of funds towards heating the swimming pools in Onslow, Tom Price and Paraburdoo will be considered during the preparation of the 2024/2025 Shire Budget.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 of the Strategic Community Plan – People and Place



Shire of Ashburton's Commitment to

Young People

Welcoming our new Youth Community Development Officer in July 2023, Tamara Mott will drive youth community development focused outcomes outlined in the newly released Youth Strategy 2023 – 2025.

The Youth Community Development Officer alongside the Communities team has been meeting with Key Partners and Stakeholders in Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Onslow and Pannawonica to share the new Youth Strategy and identify opportunities for collaboration to ensure all strategic outcomes

are met. Working closely with young people to hear their wants and needs, Tamara collaborated with various groups to co-design the Passion of the Pilbara Youth Zone, delivered with the support of Headspace and Mineral Resources to create a safe and inclusive space for young people.

This activity meets Strategic Objective 1 and 3 of the Strategic Community Plan – People and Prosperity



Ashburton Athlete's: Stars Shine in the Active Ashburton Sports Awards

Recognising the sporting achievements of individuals and teams across the Shire, Active Ashburton Sports Awards are an important initiative acknowledging the countless hours of time and effort from those who contribute to the success of making the sporting community one which is strong, supportive, and thriving across all four towns.

These awards also honour the athletic achievements and sporting heroes we have in our towns.

Six categories were open to public vote for three weeks; Excellence in Leadership, Service to Sport, Club Volunteer, Sporting Group of the Year, Junior Sportsperson of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year. Congratulations to the following winners;

Excellence in Leadership, Junior Sportsperson of the Year

- Kellie Ryan (Tom Price)
- Kelsey Stephens (Paraburdoo)
- Renee Elliott (Onslow)
- Tori Wellwood (Pannawonica)

Service to Sport

- Felicity Guthrie (Tom Price)
- Paul Leijser (Paraburdoo)
- Julian Tann (Onslow)
- Hayley Norris (Pannawonica)

Club Volunteer of The Year

- Jesse Diver (Tom Price)
- Russell Aston (Paraburdoo)
- Dee Walkington (Onslow)
- Hayley Norris (Pannawonica)

Sporting Group of the Year

- Tom Price Amateur Basketball Association (Tom Price)
- Paraburdoo Saints Junior Football Club (Paraburdoo)
- Onslow Junior Football Club (Onslow)
- Pannawonica Junior Sports (Pannawonica)

Junior Sportsperson of the Year

- Eunice Roberts (Tom Price)
- Taneisha Aston (Paraburdoo)
- Xavier Cox (Onslow)
- Henry Mann (Pannawonica)

Sportsperson of the Year

- Rhys Cooyou (Tom Price)
- Ellie Washfold (Paraburdoo)
- Dale Brett (Onslow)
- Tom Fox (Pannawonica).

The winners were recognised at a presentation evening in each town, with guest appearance and meet and greet with AFL star Anthony Koutoufides.

Congratulations to our Ashburton sporting stars!

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Strategic Community Plan – People, Place and Prosperity



2023

the year that was

The Shire of Ashburton are proud to deliver a range of services across all towns throughout 2023.

From Welcome to Town events, Easter, School Holiday Programs and Halloween, to official openings, fundraisers, comedy nights, quiz nights and Onslow Keeper's – there has been something for everyone to enjoy!

Follow @shireofashburton on Facebook and Instagram to be the first to know about events as they continue to unfold across Paraburdoo, Pannawonica, Tom Price and Onslow.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – People, Place, Prosperity and Performance

1, 2, 3 & 4



Shire of Ashburton featured on Channel 7 4WD *Adventure Show*

The Shire of Ashburton, along with the Shire's dynamic duo Kyle and Nick, took the spotlight on the 4WD Adventure Show on Channel 7!

Their expert showcasing of Paraburdoo and Tom Price left viewers in awe, highlighting the natural wonders and adventure waiting for all who visit. From stunning landscapes to thrilling

off-road tracks, Kyle and Nic helped Ronny Dahl, Mark LeCras and the team truly capture the essence of our extraordinary region across three episodes.

Missed the episodes? You can catch up on the adventures here;

<https://7plus.com.au/4wd-adventure-show?episode-id=FWDA03-027>



This activity meets Strategic Objectives 2 and 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – Place and Performance



Visit Ashburton awarded *Bronze* at the 2023 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards

The Shire of Ashburton were awarded Bronze in the category Excellence in Local Government Tourism, in recognition of our Visit Ashburton brand at the 2023 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards and named a finalist in the Festivals & Events category for the Onslow Eclipse Festival earlier this year.

The announcement recognises the Shire's efforts and contributions to tourism initiatives in the area, and the harnessing of the visitor economy under the Visit Ashburton branding and specifically the Reef to Range experiences.

Congratulations to all the entrants and the Business and Economic Development Team for showing our fantastic Ashburton region and all we have to offer. To view our tourism initiatives and learn more about the beauty of the Shire, follow @VisitAshburton on Instagram and Facebook.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 2 and 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – Place and Performance



Off-roading with excitement at the 4WD and Adventure Show

The Shire of Ashburton returned to the Australian 4WD & Adventure Show in Perth, from Friday November 10 to Sunday November 12.

As a tourism exhibitor, the Shire showcased their reef to range experience including our towns of Onslow, Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Pannawonica and the surrounding attractions of Karijini, Millstream Chichester National Parks and the Mackerel and Montebello Islands ahead of the tourist season.

Attending the Australian 4WD & Adventure Show is a great way for the Shire to reach enthusiastic tourists ahead of the tourist season and ensure our beautiful Ashburton is on their must-visit list, whilst promoting the Visit Ashburton tourism brand.

This is the third consecutive year the Shire of Ashburton attended the show, continuing our ongoing relationship with the 4 Wheeling Australia and 4WD and Adventure Show teams.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 2 and 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – Place and Performance



Paraburdoo *Bike Park* Project Site Selection

Community members were invited to provide input and feedback on the proposed Paraburdoo Bike Park development in September.

The purpose of the new Bike Pump track and Bike Education track is to meet the needs of community requests for the children of Paraburdoo to be able to use skateboards, scooters and bicycles in a fun and interactive way.

Two sites were proposed by the Shire of Ashburton for community feedback. A great success with 68 responses, this will help shape the future of the park and add another facility for our Paraburdoo residents.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – People, Place and Performance



Councillor Richardson thanked for contributions to the Shire

During the October council meeting, the Shire of Ashburton recognised the service of former Councillor Jamie Richardson.

As the Tableland Ward Councillor from 2019 to 2023, Cr. Jamie Richardson was presented with a plaque to show his exemplary dedication and service to our community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Cr. Jamie Richardson for his valuable contributions, and we wish him continued success in his future endeavours.

This activity meets Strategic Objective 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – Performance



Onslow Town Centre Streetscape Renewal - Concept Design & Survey

The Shire of Ashburton collaborating with our funding partner, Chevron Operated Wheatstone Project, have developed a concept plan for the revitalisation of Second Avenue, Onslow.

The purpose of the project is to not only renew and enhance the existing features of the street, but to provide a range of amenity improvements that will create a vibrant and pedestrian friendly environment catering to the needs of both residents and visitors.

A survey was conducted for three weeks to provide community feedback, with 24 people completing the form.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – People, Place and Performance



Shire welcomes *new citizens*

Throughout November we had the honour of welcoming eight incredible individuals into our community at the Tom Price and Paraburdoo Citizenship Ceremonies. A warm congratulations to our new citizens from England, Estonia, New Zealand, Thailand and India.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Strategic Community Plan – People, Place and Prosperity



Shining Bright – Onslow's Staircase to the Moon Event Lights up the Night



What a Spectacular Evening at the Onslow Staircase to the Moon Twilight Markets!

A Working Together with Onslow & Chevron Operated Wheatstone Project, it was a smashing success with close to 300 attendees, the twilight markets showcased the very best of our local talent, crafts, and culinary delights against the backdrop of the mesmerising Staircase to the Moon phenomenon in September. It was a true celebration of community spirit!

A huge thank you to all who joined us for this magical evening, and to the dedicated vendors who made it a memorable event.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1 and 3 of the Strategic Community Plan – People and Prosperity



Tom Price and Onslow's *Dazzling Digital Display*

In September, a digital sign was installed in the Tom Price Shopping Mall.

The digital sign is a new initiative created with the Communities team to showcase upcoming events and important notices to the community in a quick and eye-catching way. Keep an eye out the next time you're in

town and stop to see what the Shire are up to! Onslow's digital board has been installed outside the Library and Shire Administrator and new content will be updated frequently, so keep a look out!

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 of the Strategic Community Plan – People and Place



Shire Celebrates

Prestigious Warlang Award for Cultural Transformation and Workplace Wellbeing



Thank you to LG Professionals WA, Aware Super and the Warlang Award panel for recognising the Shire's significant culture transformation and initiatives which acknowledge workplace wellbeing.

Adele, our Manager of Organisational Development worked closely with her team and Shire to reach this milestone and accepted the award in Perth. A fantastic achievement for the Shire.

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1, 3 and 4 of the Strategic Community Plan – People, Prosperity and Performance



Tom Price Unveils Game-Changing Scoreboard

Clem Thompson Oval has been equipped with a new LED scoreboard featuring a sound system and siren, offering versatile capabilities for showcasing a range of sporting content, business advertisements, movie viewings, animations, and live feeds.

The user-friendly software has made it easily accessible for end users and community groups. Since its soft launch in August, the upgraded facilities have proven to be a tremendous success within the town!

This activity meets Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 of the Strategic Community Plan – People and Place



Organisational Development team Updates

The Shire of Ashburton has successfully brought about significant transformations within the organisation, positively impacting both employees and the daily operations. Through initiatives such as team-building days and the introduction of new policies and procedures, the Organisational Development team has diligently worked to implement the following improvements throughout 2023.

- Two new employee recognition programs have been implemented; Employee of the Month and Shire Star Awards
- The Shire won the 2023 Local Government Professionals Pilbara-Kimberley Management Challenge
- The Shire received external industry recognition for significant culture transformation in 2023, enabling employee wellbeing
- Employee engagement survey results showing a remarkable positive improvement in our employee experience across the organisation against the previous year
- Achieved 100% Local Government Act 1995 compliance in relation to staff performance reviews (two consecutive years)
- We successfully hosted two major teambuilding events across all towns, enabling increased staff connection, communication and engagement
- Employee Appreciation Day was celebrated across all towns, facilitated by our CEO and Directors
- Supporting Do It For Dolly Day by spreading kindness and uniting in helping to break the silence around bullying
- Published annual Health and Wellbeing Calendar with focus on holistic health
- Published annual Shire-wide training calendar with major focus on Psychosocial Safety and other relevant training

Paraburdoo wins *Tidy Town Award!*

A huge congratulations to the Paraburdoo community for winning this year's General Appearance Category in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

To all the Shire staff, residents and visitors who go above and beyond in making this a clean, tidy and attractive town, your efforts continue to pay off and be recognised statewide. By working together, you are building a sustainable community, making it an amazing place to live and visit.

The awards celebrated 50 years of recognising and rewarding regional and remote communities who take positive action to protect and enhance their environment.

Well done Paraburdoo!

This activity meets Strategic Objectives
1 and 4 of the Strategic Community
Plan – Place and Prosperity

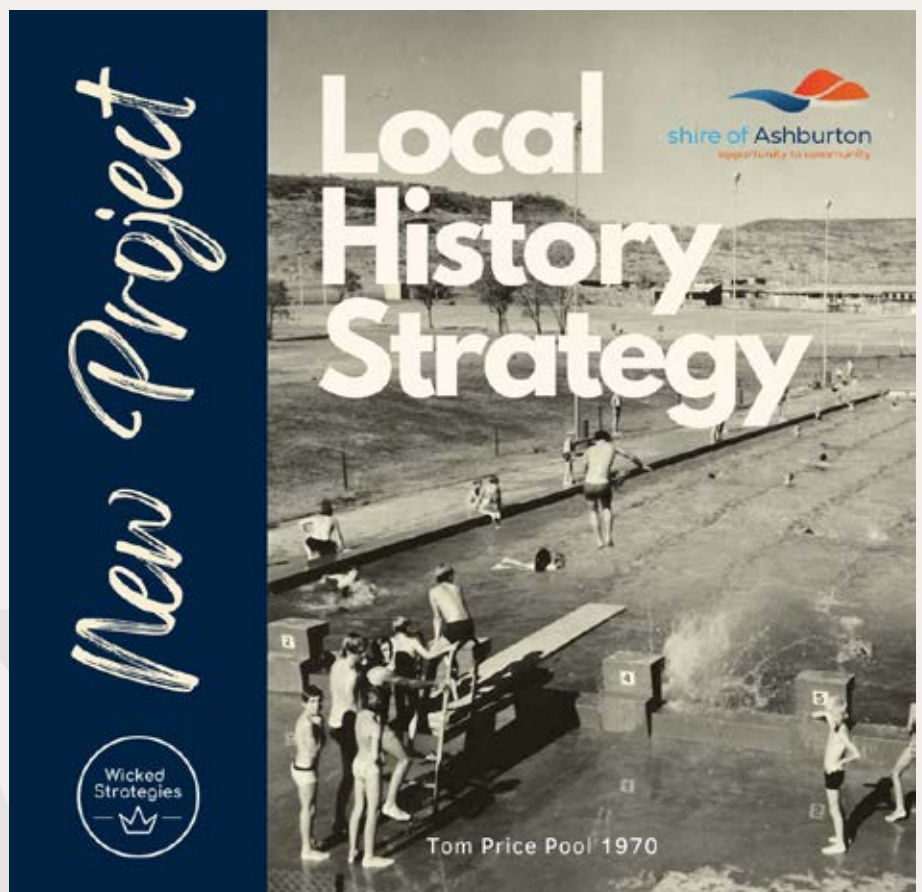


Local History *Strategy*

Preserving and celebrating local history honours the past and is a vital link to our roots. It's the rich tapestry of heritage, culture and traditions that tell the story of the past, shaping the identity and character of a place.

The Shire are partnering with Wicked Strategies to celebrate our rich history of Pannawonica, Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Onslow.

To be involved in this exciting project, please contact
local.history@ashburton.wa.gov.au



December 2023

Shire of Ashburton

WHAT'S ON Onslow

Date	Time	Event Name	Description	Location
Friday 1/12	10:00am - 5:00pm (All Ages)	Friday at the Pool	Pool party with free entry and free food!	Onslow Aquatic Centre
Saturday 2/12	11:00am - 1:00pm (50+)	Onslow Keepers Christmas Lunch	Onslow Keepers are invited to a festive Christmas Lunch	580 Forest Hall
Saturday 3/12	10:00am - 10:50am (All Ages)	Onslow Christmas Parade	Parade through the town	Therapark Oval
Saturday 9/12	10:00am - 9:00pm (All Ages)	Onslow Community Christmas Party	Come down to the Sports Club to enjoy live music, a Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa	Onslow Sports Club
Saturday 16/12 - 18/12	All Ages	Christmas Tree Trail	Follow the map around town and check out the Christmas Tree Trail that begins to come for your town	Follow the Christmas Tree Trail map around town
Saturday 16/12 - 18/12	All Ages	Story Towns Scavenger Hunt	Check to see if you (or your family) have a story to tell. Follow the clues around town to find all of Santa's helpers. Complete before 18 December to go into draw to win a family prize draw on 18 December 2023	Various locations
Friday 15/12	10:00am - 12:00pm (All Ages)	Santa's Christmas Pool Party & Carols	Christmas Carols and live music by Gary Gurney, Free Pool admission and pizza! Come down and get your photo with Santa	Onslow Aquatic Centre

For more information please phone 9188 4420 or email onslowevents@ashburton.wa.gov.au
www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

December 2023

Shire of Ashburton

WHAT'S ON Panrawonica

Date	Time	Event Name	Description	Location
Friday 1-15 Dec	All Ages	Christmas Light Competition	Join the competition and enter into the following categories to win. Traditional Light display (1st and 2nd) and 3rd. Best Creative Christmas Tree (4th and 5th). Best Community Christmas Tree (6th and 7th).	Panrawonica wide. Keep an eye out for the Christmas Light Map
Saturday 9th - 10th	All Ages	Story Towns Scavenger Hunt	Follow the clues around town to find all of Santa's helpers. Once completed head to the Panrawonica Library to pick up your prize (during library open hours)	Various locations
Saturday 16/12	10:00am - 12:00pm (All Ages)	Shire of Ashburton Community Christmas Party	Come down to the Sports Club to enjoy live music, a Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa	Panrawonica Sports Club

View all ticketed events here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/shire-of-ashburton-1718816709>

For more information please phone 9188 4420 or email panrawonica@ashburton.wa.gov.au
www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

December 2023

Shire of Ashburton

WHAT'S ON Paraburdoo

Date	Time	Event Name	Description	Location
Saturday 9/12	5:00pm - 9:00pm	Christmas Markets	Annual Christmas Markets featuring live entertainment, food trucks, market stalls, a visit from Santa and more!	Ashburton Multi/Memorial Gardens
Friday 1-15 Dec	All Ages	Christmas Light Competition	Join the competition and enter into the following categories to win. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st.	Follow the Christmas Light Competition Map
Saturday 16/12 - 18/12	All Ages	Story Towns Scavenger Hunt	Follow the clues around town to find all of Santa's helpers. Once completed head to the Paraburdoo Library to pick up your prize (during library open hours)	Various locations

View all ticketed events here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/shire-of-ashburton-1718816709>

For more information please phone 9188 4420 or email paraburdoo@ashburton.wa.gov.au
www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

December 2023

Shire of Ashburton

WHAT'S ON Tom Price

Date	Time	Event Name	Description	Location
Monday 11/12	10:00am - 12:00pm	Tom Price Australian Christmas Photo Camp	Join your family, colleagues or group and take a festive Christmas Photo. Prizes up for grabs!	Various locations
Friday 1/12	10:00am - 12:00pm (50+)	Muscle and Sip	Join us for a Muscle & Sip Class by 50+ Art Collective, light training. Prizes from 50+ Art Collective. Youth Session is free to attend. Bookings are not needed.	Community Centre
Friday 1-15 Dec	All Ages	Christmas Light Competition	Join the competition and enter into the following categories to win. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st.	Follow the Christmas Light Competition Map
Saturday 16/12 - 18/12	All Ages	Story Towns Scavenger Hunt	Follow the clues around town to find all of Santa's helpers. Once completed head to the Tom Price Library to pick up your prize (during library open hours)	Various locations
Sunday 17/12	10:00am - 12:00pm (All Ages)	Carols by Candlelight	Bring some Christmas carols, a special gift from Santa, inflatable, food and drink, and more!	Village Green

View all ticketed events here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/shire-of-ashburton-1718816709>

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