



Inside Ashburton

December 2019

Cr White re-elected as Shire President

In This Issue

International Dot Day	3
Workplace opportunities	4
Dipper's visit	5
Teeball Champs	8
Deputy Prime Minister	12
Small Business Friendly	15



The Shire of Ashburton Council has re-elected Cr Kerry White as Shire President unopposed, and Cr Doug Diver as Deputy, at October's Council meeting where all newly elected councillors were sworn in following the Local Government Elections on Saturday 19 October.

The Local Government election saw Cr Kerry White, Cr Peter Foster, Cr Linton Rumble and Cr Rory De Pledge all elected unopposed. New Councillor Jamie Richardson now represents the Tableland Ward after winning the seat from outgoing Councillor Lorraine Thomas.

The Shire President welcomed returning Councillors and congratulated Cr Richardson on being elected to Council.

Cr Kerry White also took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Lorraine Thomas for her 24 years of dedicated service to the region, as well as Cr Linton Rumble for his support as Deputy for the past 12 years.

"Council will continue to work hard together as we remain focused on achieving positive outcomes for the benefit of our towns and local communities," Cr White said.

The Ashburton Shire Council consists of nine Councillors representing six wards. These comprise of two pastoral wards (Ashburton and Tableland) and four townsite wards (Onslow, Pannawonica, Paraburdoo and Tom Price).

Each Councillor is elected to serve a four-year term and there are no restrictions

on the number of terms Councillors may serve. The Councillors elect the Shire President and Deputy Shire President every two years.

The function of Council is to provide good governance for residents in the district, which includes the provision of works and services to ensure health, safety and fulfillment of the local community.

To learn more about Council and Council Meetings visit www.ashburton.wa.gov.au/council

This activity met Community Goal 5 of the Strategic Community Plan, Inspiring Governance.



Dedicated service to the Shire



Outgoing Tableland Ward Councillor Lorraine Thomas has been a committed member of the Shire of Ashburton Council over the past 24 years.

Throughout her 24 years as an Elected Member, Mrs Thomas has made a strong contribution to various advisory boards and committees – both within the Shire and as a representative. These include the Pilbara Regional Council, Aboriginal Reference Committee, Shire Audit Committee, the Regional Road Group and the Western Australia Local

Government Association Pilbara Country Zone.

Mrs Thomas has a passion for preserving the natural environment, heritage and history of the region and advocated strongly for the promotion of tourism, both to share the beauty of the region and to support the local economy.

The Shire of Ashburton sincerely thanks Lorraine Thomas for her extensive commitment to our region.

\$20,000 to aid in fire recovery

The Shire of Ashburton is pleased to donate \$20,000 to the Tom Price Primary School for assistance in their recovery from the recent fire. It is hoped the funding will enable the school to replace damaged teaching resources, equipment and other consumables that were lost.

Council would like to thank the Tom Price Camp Draft who, in the spirit of community, proposed they redirect the Shire's \$10,000 event funding to the school after the 2019 campdraft

event was unable to be held due to drought. Council were happy to redirect the funding, as well as initiate a further \$10,000 donation, giving the school \$20,000 to aid in the recovery efforts.

Staff, parents and students have done a wonderful job in rallying together after the fire in a true testament of Tom Price community spirit and the Shire hopes this donation will further assist in creating a positive future for the school.

Council stay focused on a new Childcare Centre



Artists impression

At the October Council Meeting, councillors considered the next step in moving towards seeing a new Childcare Centre built in Tom Price.

Despite funding commitments from both Rio Tinto and the Shire, additional financial support is required to complete the \$6m facility. Previous applications to the State

and Federal Government, based on a 125 place centre, have been unsuccessful, with feedback from numerous assessment panels dictating a 96 place centre would be more favourable based on demand assessment data.

Council agreed that a facility capacity of 96 places, which is in line with the demand assessment, would improve the ability to obtain the additional funding required, and in turn enable the development to proceed. As such, a funding proposal will now be prepared for State government consideration. It is anticipated that Council will receive a response to the funding request by the end of the year, and, once secured, plans can progress to final designs and tender issue.

This activity met Community Goal 1 of the Strategic Community Plan, Vibrant and Active Communities.



Shire to review location for RFDS airstrip

In 2011 land located on the North-Eastern side of the Tom Price-Paraburdoo Road and Karijini intersection was being considered as a suitable location for an RFDS airstrip, however a public submission was made for an alternative use of this lot, hence the area became unviable.

Since then, the Shire have pursued a number of other locations, none of which have proven successful. The original lot on the corner of Karijini Drive, which is an old landing strip, has again become available with the previous private development submission never proceeding.

At October's Council meeting it was recommended that the Shire make further investigations to determine if additional land is required outside of the existing lot



boundary to meet the Royal Flying Doctor Service's requirements, and to obtain in principle support from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. An updated report will be presented to Council in the coming months.

This activity met Community Goal 4 of the Strategic Community Plan, Quality Services and Infrastructure.



Pannawonica embraces Dot Day

Pannawonica Primary School made its mark on International Dot Day, celebrating creativity, courage and collaboration along with over 180 countries around the world.

International Dot Day is based on a classic Peter Reynolds storybook, *The Dot*. The book shares the story of a girl who begins

a journey of self-discovery after a caring teacher challenges her to "make her mark."

The school leveraged the concept to encourage students to be brave enough to make their mark when facing challenges academically, socially, physically or culturally.

All students and staff made their dot,

creating a whole-school dot mural that represents unity, uniqueness and bravery.

According to the Pannawonica Primary School Principal, Ben Jamieson "Everyone is inspired to make their mark at Pannawonica Primary School. This is in line with our whole-school OHANA vision, where nobody is left behind or forgotten."



Workplace opportunities for local youth

The Shire has recently undertaken several initiatives to engage the community, and more specifically youth, to work for the Shire.

These have had positive outcomes for the Shire and we are looking to expand these into other areas. Our HR team are working with Tom Price Senior High School, Isolated and Distance Education, as well as Local Government training providers, to identify opportunities for work experience and vocational training that would assist our local students gain experience, career direction and employment. We are hoping to announce some exciting initiatives early next year.

Work Experience

Earlier this year we had three Year 11 students from Tom Price Senior High School join the Town Maintenance teams for a 10 week vocational training program. Working with staff for one day a week across term 3, the students were shown the ropes of Parks and Garden maintenance. Since then, we have also placed a Year 10 student from the School of Isolated and Distance Education, who is currently undertaking a similar program with the Onslow Town Maintenance team.

Thanks to all Shire staff who have supported these students and enabled the Shire to provide these opportunities to our local youth.

The program has been a great success and we are currently looking at providing more placement opportunities next year across other areas of our organisation.

Staff Recruitment

In past years, the Shire has found it difficult to adequately resource the pools with lifeguards and swimming pool assistants. This year, we decided to do things a little differently and

ran a recruitment drive with a simpler application process to engage the community, and specifically youth, in working for the Shire.

We promoted the swimming pool roles during the Tom Price Senior High Careers Night, across social media, in local businesses and on the community noticeboards.

A total of 21 applications were received from Onslow, Paraburdoo and Tom Price and all were invited to participate in a group interview. Shortlisted applicants were then provided with the necessary training, including Bronze Medallion and Lifeguard training and requalification. Applicants were then progressed through the usual range of pre-employment checks including full medical, drug and alcohol screening, provision of police clearance for those over 18 and reference checks. It was a great learning experience for those who may have never been through the process before, and all applicants conducted themselves to a high standard.

The recruitment approach was a great way to engage with local youth, and delivered positive outcomes for the Shire. The majority of applicants were high school students, a few boarding school and university attendees who come home during the peak holiday periods, as well as a couple of adults who live locally.

Welcome to all of our new pool staff.

If you are looking for a job, either full time, part time or casual, keep a close eye on our current opportunities page - hit the jobs link on our homepage at www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

This activity met Community Goal 5 of the Strategic Community Plan, Effective planning for the future.



Rugby makes a big return

Rugby League has made a big return with Paraburdoo and Tom Price putting together teams for the inaugural Ashburton Cup. The three game series has drawn huge crowds and has been an exciting addition to the local sporting scene.

The final game was a nail biting decider with the Tom Price Steelers and Paraburdoo Pirates being tied at one game each. Crowds from Tom Price and Paraburdoo descended on the Judy Woodvine Oval for the final game, which saw Steelers take out the series with a 14/10 win.

The re-introduction of the sport into Tom Price and Paraburdoo has been supported by NRL WA, and the Steelers will be hosting the Northwest championships in 2020.

The introductory 3-game series has been a huge success and both clubs will play a full season next year.



Dipper's visit to Onslow

AFL star Robert DiPierdomenico, or Dipper as we have come to know him, visited Onslow in October to film an episode for his new TV show "Dipper's Destinations."

Due to air mid next year, this episode of the new travel show will highlight Onslow as a great place to visit, whether it's for a family holiday, an adventure for overseas tourists or place to stop awhile for retirees on their northern pilgrimage.

While in Onslow Dipper and his film crew took a trip out to Old Onslow, attended the opening of the Men's Shed, made a surprise visit to the Onslow Gala, hosted the Charity Auction at the Sports Club and learned about the new Onslow Marine Supply Base currently in development. It was great to have Dipper in Onslow and we'll let you know when the episode is scheduled to air on TV.



Paraburdoo continues to be a Tidy Town

The Keep Australia Beautiful Board announced Paraburdoo as a finalist in Environmental Education, in recognition of the Paraburdoo Tidy Town committee's work with the Primary School to create sustainable communities through education and participation.

A number of great initiatives were implemented with the school throughout the year including a recycling program in partnership with TerraCycle, composting for the school garden and the planting of 21 new trees.

Paraburdoo also hosted a Clean-up Day, collecting over 100 bags of rubbish thanks to 40 community volunteers.

Congratulations Paraburdoo.



Preventing mosquito-borne diseases

Mosquitoes are no fun and the Shire's Environmental Health team work to reduce adult mosquito numbers in town by implementing a range of mosquito control strategies.

We encourage residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites by covering up with light loose clothing and/or using mosquito repellent with DEET when out and about - particularly during the hours of dusk and dawn when biting mosquitoes are usually active.

In Western Australia, mosquitoes can transmit Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, Kunjin virus and the potentially fatal Murray Valley Encephalitis virus. There is currently no cure or vaccine for any of these diseases.

Some of the key things the Shire is currently doing are:

- Participating in promoting the State Health Departments Fight the Bite health promotion campaign.
- Participate in the WA Department of Health Sentinel Chicken program. This involves blood testing the chickens every two weeks in all towns within the Shire. It provides an early warning for Murray Valley Encephalitis virus and Kunjin virus. Both viruses are rare but can be found in the Pilbara and Northern WA.
- Mosquito larvae control.
On a regular basis all drains and natural waterways are inspected in and around our towns. We treat any water found with Vectobac G; a biological larvicide granule. VectoBac G is toxic only to the larvae of certain mosquitoes. It does not harm other aquatic, marine or terrestrial fauna.
- Adult mosquito trapping.
Monitoring adult mosquito populations to provide a quantitative measure of mosquito activity.
- Provide input to land development applications to ensure final development design does not allow opportunity for mosquito breeding.



- Request design improvements to drains and mosquito habitat areas to eliminate or reduce opportunities for mosquito breeding.

The only way to prevent infection is to avoid being bitten.

The lifecycle of a mosquito

After the adult mosquitoes have emerged they leave the breeding site to seek out food and resting places such as backyard gardens, reserves and natural bushland. Once mated, the female will seek blood meals and then return to the

breeding grounds to lay her eggs. She will then return back to feed and rest.

Males feed on nectar and plant juices but do not seek blood.

Mosquitoes do not breed in vegetation, like long grasses and trees, but seek shelter in these environments.

What can I do?

Mosquitoes require a source of water to complete their lifecycle, so if you have containers that hold water and are not cleaned or emptied on a regular basis, they become a viable breeding ground.

Residents can minimise mosquito breeding around the home by taking some simple steps such as:

- Dispose of all containers which hold water
- Stock ornamental ponds with fish and keep vegetation away from the water's edge
- Keep swimming pools well chlorinated, filtered and free of dead leaves
- Fill or drain depressions in the ground that hold water
- Fit mosquito proof covers to vent pipes on septic tank systems. Seal all gaps

around the lid to ensure leach drains are completely covered

- Screen rainwater tanks with insect proof mesh, including inlet, overflow and inspection ports
- Ensure guttering does not hold water
- Empty pot plants drip trays once a week or fill them with sand
- Empty and clean animal and pet drinking water bowls once a week.

If you are concerned about a potential mosquito breeding source please contact the Shire.



Social sport a hit in Paraburdoo

The Shire's Club Development team, in conjunction with Rio Tinto and with support from Sodexo, Paraburdoo Police Station and local clubs, recently introduced a social sport program in Paraburdoo, with five different sports showcased over 30 weeks. Held every Thursday night, residents are encouraged to head down to the Sports, Fitness and Community Centre to have a go.

Each sport runs for six weeks, with Basketball, Volleyball and Fustal being showcased so far. No formal commitment is required and teams are made up on the night, with the program proving to be a great social night of fun and fitness.

Futsal is currently being played, with Badminton to complete the final 6 week program.



This activity met Community Goal 1 of the Strategic Community Plan, Vibrant and Active Communities.



North West Teeball Champs



For the first time in 19 years teams across the Pilbara travelled to Paraburdoo to take part in the annual North West Teeball tournament. More than 600 people attended the weekend, with teams visiting from Karratha, Wickham/Roebourne, Hedland, Tom Price and Newman. Hosted by a different town each year, Paraburdoo's new Sports, Fitness and Community complex meant they were able to be the host town.

It was a great weekend of competition, and, as an added bonus, Perth Heat players Jesse Williams and Sam Kennelly ran a MP70 baseball tournament to introduce older kids to the sport.

The seniors and juniors Teeball divisions were both won by Wickham/Roebourne Teeball Association and the Hedland Red Sox took out the intermediates.

Paraburdoo's intermediate team was awarded the competition's Ros Jones Shield for best sportsmanship.

Congratulations to the Paraburdoo Teeball Association, and the numerous local clubs and businesses, who supported the event and made it such a huge success.



Dog and cat registrations are now due

All pets must be registered before October 31st

- Under the *Dog Act 1976*, all dogs over three (3) months of age must be microchipped and registered before October 31st
- Under the *Cat Act 2011*, all cats over the age of six (6) months of age must be sterilised, microchipped and registered before October 31st
- Proof of sterilisation along with microchip details must be presented to the Shires admin officers when registering your pet(s)
- On the spot fines can be issued for failing to register, microchip or sterilise your pet(s)
- Fines of \$200 per offence can be issued for noncompliance under these "Acts."

REGISTRATION FEES:

UNSTERILISED	DOGS:	CATS:
1 Year	\$50	N/A
3 Years	\$120	N/A
Lifetime	\$250	N/A
STERILISED	DOGS:	CATS:
1 Year	\$20	\$20
3 Years	\$42.50	\$42.50
Lifetime	\$100	\$100

All Pensioners 50% receive off regular fees.

For additional information please contact your local Shire of Ashburton Administrative Office

Tom Price: 9188 4444
 Paraburdoo: 9190 2220
 Onslow: 9184 6001
 Pannawonica: 9134 9501



www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

Cyclone Alert System

**PREPARE,
TAKE ACTION,
RECOVER**

KEEP INFORMED, STAY SAFE

When a cyclone threatens, community alerts will be issued by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. The alert level changes to reflect the increasing risk to your life and advises what you need to do before, during and after a cyclone. The four alert stages are – blue, yellow, red and all clear.

COMMUNITY ALERT LEVELS

BLUE ALERT	Get ready for a cyclone	You need to start preparing for cyclonic weather.
YELLOW ALERT	Take action and get ready to shelter from a cyclone	You need to prepare for the arrival of a cyclone.
RED ALERT	Take shelter from the cyclone	You need to go shelter immediately.
ALL CLEAR	The cyclone danger has passed but take care	Wind and storm surge dangers have passed but you need to take care to avoid the dangers caused by damage.

DO NOT DRIVE ON RED ALERT – IT IS DANGEROUS

Cyclones can be unpredictable and can intensify rapidly. You need to prepare for a cyclone impact even if it does not look like it is coming your way.

You and your family must know

- The four stages of the alert system and what they mean
- Where to access the latest alert level information
- What tasks or actions need to be done on each alert level



LISTEN CAREFULLY
and do what the alerts say to help keep safe.

During a cyclone you can get alert information from

- Emergency Alerts at www.dfes.wa.gov.au
- DFES Information Line on **13 DFES** (13 3337)
- www.bom.gov.au or by calling the Cyclone Warning Advice Line on **1300 659 210**
- ABC radio and other local media

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816**



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



CYCLONE AND FLOOD

Emergency Kit

FACTSHEET

02

PREPARE,
TAKE ACTION,
RECOVER

SUPPLIES FOR SHELTERING DURING A CYCLONE

An **Emergency Kit** is essential for short term survival (up to four days) whether you choose to stay at home or need to relocate to safer accommodation. An Emergency Kit is a collection of items that are essential for your household's needs in the event of any emergency.

Keep your kit in a sturdy bag or waterproof storage box, which is stored in a safe and easily accessible place.

START YOUR EMERGENCY KIT with the following items

- Medication
- First aid kit
- Toiletries, sanitary supplies
- Drinking water (to last at least four days)
- Canned food (to last at least four days)
- Portable, battery operated AM/FM radio
- Waterproof torch
- Spare batteries

REMEMBER TO CONSIDER YOUR PETS.

What do they need? These items should be included in your Emergency Kit.



You and your family must

- Prepare an Emergency Kit
- Check and replace food and water every 12 months
- Review your kit when a cyclone or flood alert is issued

A full list of Emergency Kit items can be found at www.dfes.wa.gov.au



A RELOCATION KIT IS AN ADDITION TO YOUR EMERGENCY KIT.

A Relocation Kit contains the items you need to add to your Emergency Kit when you need to relocate to safer accommodation. Go to **Fact Sheet 3** to find out about Relocation Kits.

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816**



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Contact the Shire 24/7

Earlier this year the Shire implemented an after-hours call centre to enhance our customer service delivery and to ensure all urgent matters could be dealt with promptly.

All calls made to Shire reception outside of office hours are diverted to our contracted Australian call centre, where operators take a detailed message and refer the query through to the relevant department.

In the case of an urgent matter, staff will respond immediately and, in all other cases, the query will be actioned as soon as possible within the next business day.

As well as the after-hours call service, you can lodge a **See it Report it (Customer Action Request)** form via our website www.ashburton.wa.gov.au



Shire Administration

Tom Price: 9188 4444
Paraburdoo: 9190 2220
Pannawonica: 9134 9501
Onslow: 9184 6001

Deputy Prime Minister tours Onslow



The Shire of Ashburton were pleased to welcome Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Michael McCormack MP and Vincent Catania MLA, Member for North West Central, to Onslow in October, where he spent time seeing first hand some of the recent developments, as well as the numerous opportunities for economic enhancement.

Meeting with Minister McCormack the Shire took the opportunity to showcase the diversity that exists within the Shire's four towns, and the desire to build strong, sustainable communities that nourish the growth of local industry and social capacity, and to generate economic sustainability that is not purely reliant on the resource industry.

Shire President Kerry White said that the Shire, in partnership with Chevron and Rio Tinto, have together achieved great things for our towns – aquatic centres, recreational and sporting facilities, the Onslow airport; however in order to continue to meet the needs required for commercial and social long term sustainability, additional Federal funding support is required.

"We sincerely thank the Federal Government for the contribution which

will see the sealing of the Tom Price to Karratha Road, an important tool for economic growth within our inland areas. It is an exciting project that residents and businesses will celebrate, as it will make living and working in the region easier in so many ways."

"We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Federal Government for their investment in the Pilbara Waste Management Facility, currently being developed in Onslow. This new facility will meet an important need within the whole of the North West of Western Australia, reducing costs and improving efficiencies for many industry and business operations."

"However, in order to ensure diversification and economic sustainability the Shire of Ashburton will be seeking Federal Funding support through the Building Better Regions Fund for the Onslow Marina and Tom Price Child Care Centre. Both of these projects are vital in ensuring the growth and viability of the towns."

While in Onslow Minister McCormack hosted a meet and greet with the local community, giving residents a chance to have a chat with the Deputy Prime Minister during his visit to Onslow.

Onslow's gala weekend

It was a busy October in Onslow with the annual Gala Ball followed by the opening of the new Men's Shed and a Charity Auction hosted by AFL legend Dipper. All events showcased Onslow's lively community spirit as residents took the opportunity to get together with friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Saturday 12 October saw the RM Forrest Hall once again transform for the annual gala, as guests dressed for the occasion, enjoyed the fine food grazing table prepared by Onslow Beach Resort and the live entertainment from Shakedown.

Starting with a red carpet arrival and champagne, and followed by lots of laughter, dancing and fun, the night proved another successful highlight on the Onslow social calendar.

On Sunday evening the fun continued with a Charity Auction at the Onslow Sports Club, hosted by Dipper and raising money for the newly opened Onslow Men's Shed. In town to film Onslow for an episode of 'Dippers Destinations', Dipper auctioned off some great signed memorabilia with all proceeds supporting the community.

Shire President Kerry White said the Gala has become a highlight for Onslow as it gives everyone the chance to dress up and mix with the rest of the community.

"Onslow has a great lifestyle and the Gala is a celebration of this," said Cr White. "Embracing life in a remote town is all about the friendships formed and connection to community, and the Gala successfully brings these together each year."

The Shire of Ashburton would like to thank the Chevron-operated Wheatstone Project for their contribution in making this year's Onslow Annual Gala another huge success.

"Chevron is proud to support events such as these through our Working Together Onslow partnership with the Shire of Ashburton," Melissa Smith, Chevron Australia Community Engagement Manager said.

"It was great to be part of the weekend festivities and see the community turn out to celebrate."

This activity met Community Goal 1 of the Strategic Community Plan, Vibrant and Active Communities.



The fun of the holiday's

School holidays are always fun, especially when the weather is warm and you have options to get the kids out of the house and keep them amused.

Thanks to the Shire's partnerships with Rio Tinto and the Wheatstone-operated Chevron Project, a program of activities were again on offer to keep children entertained across the two week break.

Filmbites academy ran drama and film making workshops, with students producing, acting in and filming their own movies which will be screened in the coming weeks. So stay tuned!

Other budding creatives learned how to make their own soap, slime, air clay ornaments and tie dye garments and Onslow's young masterchefs made the most of the community garden as they prepared and cooked a delicious feast.

Those who simply wanted to burn some energy were kept busy with a number of sports challenges, games and dance. In Onslow, laser tag proved extremely popular with sessions booking out in record time and new time-slots added so everyone could be included.

Pannawonica also hosted artist Mel McVee who, with assistance from the community, has painted a new mural outside the local café.

Plus, the pools were open, the weather was warm, skate parks were pumping and the best picnic spots were full.

Shire President Kerry White said the School Holiday programs were important in providing children with new opportunities, while also assisting parents navigate the



challenges of living in remote towns.

"Keeping the kids amused, active and engaged, as well as helping parents juggle their time during the holidays, is a key driver for the program," said Cr White. "It is good to see kids having fun during the holidays, while also having the opportunity to learn new things."

"It is awesome the Shire can offer a diverse set of activities to keep kids engaged during the holidays and we are proud to support this program through our Working Together Onslow partnership with the Shire of Ashburton", said Tiffany Winch-Buist Senior Community Engagement Advisor, Chevron Australia.

Manager Regional Community Engagement Shaun McLoughlin said

Rio Tinto values this important program delivered under our partnership with the Shire.

"The school holiday activities have again provided a range of activities across the towns that give our youth and children opportunities to engage in new and fun activities in their school breaks."

The Shire would also like to thank Sodexo, Tom Price Youth Support Association and Nintirri who provided valuable support in hosting a variety of the activities.

This activity met Community Goal 1 of the Strategic Community Plan, Vibrant and Active Communities.



Community scorecard survey

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our recent community scorecard survey. There has been some positive feedback as well as some areas for increased focus, which is the reason we have initiated these types of surveys.

We are currently reviewing the results and integrating these into our forward task planning.

Once we complete the process of analysis and planning we will share the outcomes and goals with the community.

This activity met Community Goal 5 of the Strategic Community Plan, Inspiring Governance.



Pannawonica Primary finalist in Governor's STEM Awards

Pannawonica Primary School is one of three Western Australian primary schools, two being from the Pilbara, to be named as finalists in the 2019 Governor's School STEM Awards.

Now in its fifth year, the Governor's School STEM Awards recognise excellence in delivering an innovative, engaging and whole-of-school approach to science, technology, engineering and maths education.

The schools named as finalists have successfully integrated a whole-of-school STEM culture across the curriculum, providing students with opportunities to engage with technology and develop a range of problem solving and analytical skills.

The finalist primary schools are:

- Baynton West Primary School
- Brookman Primary School
- Pannawonica Primary School



Winners are due to be announced as we go to print, so we wish Pannawonica Primary all the best and congratulate them on being recognised for their achievements.



Shire Adopts Small Business Friendly charter

As part of our commitment to supporting the local business community in each of our towns, we are delighted to announce that the Shire of Ashburton has signed the Small Business Friendly Local Governments Charter.

This new initiative, developed by the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC), formally recognises local governments that are demonstrating, or working towards, 'better practice' in engaging with their small business community.

By signing the Charter the Shire of Ashburton commits to assisting small businesses by:

- Providing letters of support for funding applications that align with the Shire's strategic plans.
- Providing equal opportunity to local suppliers in the way of a 'Buy Local – Regional Price Preference', where a discount is applied when comparing

tendered prices, so as to give a marginal advantage to a regional tenderer.

- Ensuring payments to suppliers are made as early as 7 days, and up to a maximum of 30 days.
- Providing free listings in the Shire Business & Community Directory.
- Developing a new program of grant funding opportunities to local businesses.
- Ensuring pre-registration inspections under the Health Act or the Food Act are completed within seven days.
- Providing networking and support opportunities to enhance the operating environment for small businesses within our Shire.

The Shire of Ashburton is proud to be 'small business friendly' and this commitment is part of our recently adopted Economic and Tourism Development Strategy, which defines a clear path for the enhanced development of a robust local economy in four towns.

To stay updated about upcoming programs, workshops and networking opportunities across the Shire, register your interest via emailing economicdevelopment@ashburton.wa.gov.au

For more information about the Small Business Friendly Local Governments initiative please visit www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au

This activity met Community Goal 2 of the Strategic Community Plan, Economic Prosperity.



Upcoming Events



December 2019

Date	Event	Location
DECEMBER		
Sunday 1 December	Christmas Carols	Tom Price
Sunday 1 December	Sports Star Awards	Pannawonica
Tuesday 3 December	Sports Star Awards	Tom Price
Thursday 5 December	Sports Star Awards	Paraburdoo
Friday 6 December	Christmas Lights Walking Tour	Pannawonica
Saturday 7 December	Christmas Pool Party	Onslow
Saturday 7 December	Christmas Parade and Activities	Onslow
Sunday 8 December	Christmas Lights Bus Tour	Paraburdoo & Tom Price
Saturday 14 December	Christmas Carols	Pannawonica
Tuesday 17 December	Council Meeting	Onslow Shire Complex
JANUARY		
Monday 13 - Thursday 23 January	School Holiday Activities	Pannawonica
Tuesday 21 - Thursday 30 January	School Holiday Activities	Tom Price & Paraburdoo
Sunday 26 January	Australia Day & Award Ceremony	All Towns
FEBRUARY		
Wednesday 5 February	Onslow Keepers	Onslow

Administration Centre

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PO Box 567

Phone: (08) 9188 4444
Freecall: 1800 679 232
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www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

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