Brockman 4 – Our Latest Shire Asset

Shire President Greg Musgrave traded his presidential cap in exchange for a hard hat and protective eyewear, when he spent a night at Rio Tinto’s Brockman 4 site shortly after it opened for business to learn just what the new site would mean for the people of Ashburton.

The opening of Rio Tinto’s $1.63b Brockman 4 iron-ore mine near Tom Price last month signals the beginning of change for those living in the Shire of Ashburton, with Rio Tinto offering a raft of employment opportunities and vowing to support local business ventures and service providers.

Covering a geographic footprint of 13,000 hectares, the mine located just 60kms north-west of Tom Price has already sent its one millionth tonne of iron-ore to Dampier for shipment - with an initial target output of 22mtpa and the capacity to expand to 40mtpa.

Currently the site focuses on drill and blast and load and haul operations. Comprised of a state-of-the-art accommodation camp, Rio Tinto offers its 530 fly-in fly-out miners and contractors a selection of modern facilities including a swimming pool, fitness centre, tennis courts and a wet and dry mess.

The precision involved in managing the open-cut mine is impressive, with the site utilising the latest equipment including modular mining systems in all the trucks and diggers and high-tech GPS-based mine management. Read more on Page 2.
Last month Shire President Greg Musgrave was invited to spend a night at the mine site where he spent several hours meeting with key personnel to learn about the mining operation and the magnitude of the project.

“We wanted to have a firsthand look over the mine site simply to gauge the impact and quantify the size of the assets and its benefits to the Shire of Ashburton and Tom Price and being onsite for several hours allowed me to do this,” he said.

“Brockman 4 is totally reliant on a FIFO (fly-in fly-out) workforce and on the surface this is disappointing given Brockman 4 is only a 45 minute drive from Tom Price on one of the best roads in the district,” he explained.

“On this basis one could argue against the justification for FIFO because our strategic outlook is to develop and maintain sustainable communities.”

Cr Musgrave said learning about the economic benefits that could arise from the opening of the mine, for both Tom Price and the Shire, changed his opinion of FIFO.

“After you realise and acknowledge the amount of work locally based contractor’s gain, it starts to put things into perspective,” he said.

“It’s a question of balancing the advantages to both the business and the Shire.”

Cr Musgrave said it was also extremely fulfilling to see the number of local Traditional Owners getting involved in the mining operation and planning.

“It’s encouraging to see Indigenous people and TO’s involved so intricately in the mine site.”

Greater Brockman Operations general manager Michael Golischewski said Brockman 4 enabled Rio Tinto to sustain its production rate and prevent declines in the high-grade ore.

He said construction of the mine site and accommodation camp took just over two years to create, with most of the miners moving into the village accommodation in February this year.

“It is very rewarding for everyone that’s been involved because you see these things being conceived in drawings and on paper... it’s been a fair while in the making,” he explained.

Mr Golischewski said over the next few years Rio Tinto would expand to the next two phases of the project, with the company’s long-term goal to increase its Pilbara production rate to 330mtpa by 2015.

He said Rio Tinto was committed to investing in regional areas and supporting local communities by offering the regions employment ahead of its city counterparts.

“It’s also really about purchasing locally and supporting the local businesses and using local service providers where we can, for some of the recent modification works we have been using local contractors.”

Female presence in Brockman 4 currently stands at 16%, however Mr Golischewski said the team was hoping to expand this figure to 25% and would target university students and organise talks with school aged children to teach them the benefits of working on a mine site.

“Tо make a difference in the future we need women in leadership roles,” he said.

Although the mine only opened for business a number of months ago, managers say it has already exceeded its target of recruiting Aboriginal employment for the year, with the company now looking to expand this number to 15 per cent.

Brockman 4 dozer, grader and haul truck operator Aiden Ashburton is a Traditional Owner of the PKKP group and had the privilege of loading the first pile of iron-ore into the crusher during the official mine opening. He said the experience was an honour.

“I felt so proud because I had not only my family but the entire mine site there, everyone had a smiling face and it felt like I was part of a team,” he said.

For Mr Ashburton the mine site is like a home away from home for him, with many of his family members also working at the mine.

“There are heaps (of jobs) there for our people who want to come out and start mining,” he said.

“Put yourself forward and don’t feel frightened...I love it (this job) you can’t ask for anything better,” he said.
Karajini gets funding boost from State Government

The West Pilbara is set to benefit from the State Government’s $20 billion boost to nature-based tourism, with Karajini among a pool of other parks to receive upgrades over the next four years. Money will be spent on building better and safer roads in the area. Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls said the investments ensured more caravan and camping opportunities for tourists.

Calendar of Events

Tom Price Mobile Laser Skirmish Classes
October 8, 2010 - 2pm to 4pm and 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Clem Thompson Oval
Practice your aim with an infra-red laser as you go into battlefield scenarios. There are three sessions in Tom Price aimed at 7-9 year olds, 10-12 year olds and 13-15 year olds. There will also be a session available for 17-year-olds right up to adults. Bookings are essential and can be made at the Community Services Centre on 91880807.

Paraburdoo Mobile Laser Skirmish Classes
October 8, 2010 - 9am to 11am
Main Oval
There are three sessions in Paraburdoo aimed at 7-9 year olds, 10-12 year olds and 13-15 year olds. Bookings are essential and can be made at the Community Services Centre on 91880807.

Leaping Lizards - Boys sleepover movie night
October 8, 2010 – 5pm
Onslow Primary School Library
5 – 12 years
Dinner provided. Bring sleeping bags and PJs. Please contact Marcelle on 0418 823 791 or Anita on 0415 921 452.

Pink Ribbon Car Boot Sale
October 17, 2010 – 9am to 12pm
Tom Price Drive-in
Have you got bits and pieces at home you would like to sell, then book a car bay for $5 and be part of the Pink Ribbon Car Boot Sale. Registrations can be made by contacting Karen at r.k.grant@bigpond.com or phoning on 0448 890 286 or Rachael at sammarchi@bigpond.com or phoning on 0447 808 711. Sellers to arrive at 8am and buyers can come from 8am. There will be a sausage sizzle and cool drinks to purchase.

Ordinary Council meeting
October 20, 2010 – 8am
Ashburton Hall, Paraburdoo
This meeting is open to the public.

Rio Tinto Picnic Day, Paraburdoo
October 23, 2010 – 4pm to 10pm
Main Oval
A free community picnic day at Main Oval.

FESA Treasure Hunt Car Rally
October 24, 2010 – 10am
Paraburdoo Fire Station.

FESA Open Day, Paraburdoo
October 24, 2010 – 3pm
Paraburdoo Fire Station
Come down for an open day at the fire station.

Pink Ribbon – Champagne Breakfast
October 30, 2010 - 9am to 2pm
Tom Price Community Centre
Tickets are $50 per person and entitles you to a cooked breakfast and two glasses of champagne. Tickets are limited so buy now to avoid missing out at Mister & Sister or Rio Tinto Tom Price Gatehouse.

Pet Profile

Name: Dusty
Age: 10 years
Looking For: My one true love.
Likes: Tummy rubs, pets, sitting on your lap, greeting you at the door, watching the world go by from the doormat.
Dislikes: Too much noise or activity.
Appearance: Absolutely gorgeous: sleek, slim and shiny.
Other Pets Are: I would prefer to be the only furry member of the family.
Favourite Song: Dusty Springfield’s ‘Wishin and Hopin’ because I am wishin and hopin you will fall in love with me.
My middle name is Unconditional Love!
The Shire of Ashburton is doing its part to reduce rubbish in its towns by setting up recycling depots in Tom Price and Paraburdoo. The Shire of Ashburton’s budget allocation of $3m to develop additional land for residential and commercial use. This combined with the Shire’s promise to begin site work to develop 59 lots of land in Pilkena, Warara and Yaruga Streets and to also expand the light industrial area in Tom Price, will offer more land for new business headquarters.

The first Moringa trial crops have been planted by local school children in the Nameless Valley in Tom Price in the hope that the project can bring a sustainable and economically viable source of biofuel to the mining industry. Moringa not only can be used as a diesel substitute but also has value as a food crop. Smaller pods can be sold on the vegetable market where there is a large multicultural base of people in Australia who source it. This makes the product different to that which is currently available and suggests it could be very profitable.

The Department of Regional Development and Lands. The trial, which was supported by Rio Tinto, will determine if Moringa crops can produce an economically viable biodiesel which can be used in the Tom Price mine’s drill and blast operations. Biodiesel has already worked well with waste cooking oils being collected around the Pilbara and processed for the use of the Tom Price mine. Drill and blast superintendent, Dave Keating said the use of biodiesel at the mine had been great. “Processed waste cooking oil has been used in the creation of blast explosives at the mine, the product has had no downfall recorded so far,” he said.

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Onslow Community News

Onslow cleans up for a cause

On September 12, Onslow participated in its annual Great Northern Clean Up at Front Beach. It was a successful day with 11 adults and six children participating, working hard to collect well over 25 bags of rubbish. Some of the items the group found discarded included cigarette butts, plastic, glass bottles and clothing. A big thank you goes out to all those that participated on the day and to those who couldn’t make it but volunteered to collect rubbish before the day. A sausage sizzle ended the day nicely.

Onslow Multi-Purpose update with Project Coordinator Geoff Shoemark

The tiling has commenced and painting internally and externally is well underway.

The upgrade to the Horizon Power supply and Water Corporation water supply connections have also been completed allowing power and water supply connection once all internal fittings have been finalised.

Civil external works have commenced with earthworks and road and carpark pavement construction. Low retaining walls installation to follow together with bitumen surfacing, kerbing and pathway paving aimed for October and November.

Works remaining and being programmed over October and November include:
- CCTV installation and security and emergency systems
- Plumbing fittings and hot water services including water wise tap outlets fitted with timers
- Commercial kitchen fit out
- Electrical fixtures fit out
- Installation of floor coverings including the cushioned sports hall floor
- Installation of sporting fixtures in the sports hall
- Installation of window treatments
- Installation of the solar power system and diesel standby generator system
- Construction of the day care play area
- Commissioning of all mechanical and electrical features

Any queries about works can be directed to the Shires Project Coordinator Geoff Shoemark on phone 0439 649 430.

Macedon project adds further excitement for Onslow residents

BHP Billiton's approval for development of its $US1.5 billion Macedon gas joint venture with Apache Corp has been welcomed by the Shire of Ashburton.

BHP, which owns 71.43 per cent of the resource, has received WA environmental approval for the project and will commence drilling four offshore production wells, supplying a wet gas pipeline to an onshore gas treatment plant to be constructed at Ashburton North, 17 kilometres south west of Onslow.

A sales gas pipeline will be connected to the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline for sale to the domestic gas market in Western Australia. The gas plant will have a design capacity of 200 million standard cubic feet per day - equivalent to about a quarter of the State’s domestic gas production.

Shire President Cr Greg Musgrave said he was extremely pleased with the announcement and it signalled new changes for the coastal town of Onslow.

"We have been particularly pleased with the manner in which BHP has worked with the Shire," he said.

"BHP Billiton has demonstrated a commitment to the area and the community of Onslow and the Shire welcomes them in as ratepayers and residents." Cr Musgrave said he believed the hub would have the capacity and proposed projects to rival the Burrup Peninsula for LNG project and will be an important addition to the company’s portfolio of Western Australian projects.

"Macedon will be a valuable asset for our company and will improve the security for domestic gas supplies in both the short and medium term for Western Australia, he said.

"It will be the first development in the important Ashburton North area and will make a strong contribution to the overall growth of our Petroleum operations in Western Australia."

Premier Colin Barnett said Macedon was the first project committed to a new 8,000ha Ashburton North Strategic Industrial Estate and Port, that the State Government was developing, 14km from Onslow in the Pilbara.

Mr Barnett said Ashburton North was also being considered by Chevron for its estimated $30 billion Wheatstone LNG project and by other potential producers, which will make it one of the State’s most important export facilities.

"An exciting era is underway for WA and the West Pilbara, with Onslow and Exmouth poised to benefit from significant new investment and development," he said.

Lack of water continues to threaten investments in town

Onslow’s ongoing water issue is having adverse effects on future development in the town, after the Shire of Ashburton approved a further three developments in its September Council meeting.

These developments contribute a further $4mn, to recent development approvals of up to $7mn and are a mixture of holiday accommodation and business ventures.

If the developments proceed they would add an additional 32 beds to visitor accommodation in the town.

However inadequate water supply could further impede future growth and investment in the area, with the projects now stalled for two to five years as building licenses are subject to adequate water supply by the Water Corporation.

Shire President Cr Greg Musgrave said Council had worked to provide investment opportunities, through the Onslow Townsite Strategy and Ashburton Visioning initiatives.

"Onslow is on the verge of great opportunities and to have business development of this magnitude will support the economic and social fabric of the community."

As a Council we are sympathetic of the commercial impact this water constraint has on the economic viability of these individual investments." Cr Musgrave said he feared investors would pull out as costs escalated from delays in the projects.

"These Development Applications may double in their construction price by the time water becomes available, which may ultimately render the projects unviable – negating the investment opportunity and leaving the community of Onslow and the Shire of Ashburton with nothing."

He called on the State Government to support the Shire and challenged the Water Corporation to publicly provide timeframes and strategies to help rectify the water situation.

"We want answers... there is still not enough being done to facilitate major investment projects in Onslow."
Paraburdoo Community News

Paraburdoo Community Plants Trees as Part of National Tree Day

The Paraburdoo community planted 145 trees in just over an hour in August, as part of National Tree Planting Day sponsored by the Shire of Ashburton and Paraburdoo Tidy Towns Committee.

The smooth-barked coolabah, a species of Eucalyptus which is endemic to Australia, was planted along the entry roads into Paraburdoo from Nanaturra and Tom Price.

In total one hundred and ninety trees now stand tall along the roads.

Gavin Penfold planted the most trees on the day, with 15 in total, whilst peddling on his pushbike.

The 18 month old trees were supplied by Outback Trees of Australia from Marble Bar and will reach their full maturity in about 10-15 years.

There was a good turnout on the day with the Paraburdoo Scouts, Cubs, the Tidy Towns Committee and their families plus countless volunteers contributing. Organisers say there were almost 30 volunteers on the day and thanked everyone involved.

Bad weather doesn’t deter crowds during the inaugural Paraburdoo Red Dirt Rocks Festival

The inaugural Paraburdoo Red Dirt Rocks Festival kicked off with its Las Vegas themed ball on September 10.

The night was filled with dancing and live entertainment, Las Vegas style flashing lights and decorations, faux gambling, delicious food and the glitz and glam of the 100 plus locals dressed to the nines.

The fundraising gambling tables and bar were kindly manned by the local Paraburdoo Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.

Additionally, Trish Linde donated her photography skills.

Fe Chef provided a sumptuous cocktail menu which everyone nibbled on delightfully all night. A silent auction was also held and many bids were made on the wide array of memorabilia and souvenirs brought up by Paul Goggin of Impressions Sports Memorabilia & Framing.

The committee members thanked the Paraburdoo community for its ongoing support. Funds raised were donated to The Royal Flying Doctor Service and Police Legacy.

A Strong Contender in this Year’s Tidy Town Awards

Paraburdoo recently played host to two judges from Keep Australia Beautiful WA Tidy Towns arrived at the town’s doorstep.

Judges have been scouring the regions in search of towns that are not only clean but also uphold social and environmental attributes.

In mid August, judges Libby Hoskin and Fiona Marr inspected the tidy town, PPS & CAG Skate Park project.

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The 18 month old trees were supplied by Outback Trees of Australia from Marble Bar and will reach their full maturity in about 10-15 years.

Regional winners will be announced in October, with the State award held on November 19.

For further information visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au.

Pannawonica Community News

Local kids go the distance for sport

Living in isolation sometimes comes at a cost, but two local Pannawonica boys are not letting distance deter them from their love of football.

The two boys have spent the past three years travelling to Wickham, Roebourne and Karratha to participate in the sport.

Year Six Aaron Slape and Year Seven’s Hayden Dann have been putting on their footy boots and travelling the distance sometimes straight after school because there has been no junior football competition in Pannawonica.

The opportunity arose when Wickham Football team picked the boys to help improve their dexterity and enable them to be part of a team and experience competitive football.

The boys continue to live their dream, remaining dedicated to the team during the football season even though they cannot be involved in the regular training or team building activities that the rest of their team benefits from.

This feat also recognises the dedication and commitment of the parents, who take turns in driving the boys to and from their games to ensure their kids are given the same opportunities as young boys from larger communities.
Community Recognition Awards

If you wish to nominate an individual, family or group that add significant value to their local community for a Community Recognition Award then please contact your Rio Tinto Community Officer:

Tom Price - Kris Starcevich
Kris.Starcevich@riotinto.com

Paraburdoo - Jacquie Price
Jacqueline.Price@riotinto.com

Pannawonica - Amanda Williams
Amanda.williams@riotinto.com

Pannawonica rodeo

The 15th Annual Pannawonica Rodeo was held on Saturday 4 September with a great turnout of both competitors and spectators.

The Rodeo prides itself on producing a great event for families, attracting competitors from all over the state with an emphasis on competition and fun. The grounds, located on the outskirts of Pannawonica also provide free camping for visitors.

The committee, made up of Pannawonica locals and managers from the three nearest stations – Yarraloola, Mardie and Yalleen – work tirelessly to organise this showcase event each year.

Recent drought conditions in the Pilbara have meant that it was necessary to reduce this year’s event, originally planned with a full three-day programme.

Angela Williamson recently received a Community Recognition Award. An extremely worthy recipient, Angela has been involved with various sporting organisations in Paraburdoo including the Paraburdoo Amateur Swimming Club and the Paraburdoo Junior Cricket Club. Angela has assisted the Paraburdoo Junior Football Club and was instrumental in getting Auskick started again in Paraburdoo. Angela has also had a long association with the Paraburdoo Tee-Ball Association, assisting with coaching at the North West Championships and umpiring for many years.

Even though her children are no longer involved with these Clubs, Angela still offers her assistance and is often found umpiring tee-ball games.

Well done Angela – this recognition is very well deserved.

Pannawonica and Wickham the fittest

Rio Tinto’s mining towns may be the fittest in regional Western Australia if the City to Surf is a benchmark.

Pannawonica and Wickham scooped two-thirds of the prizes for regional City to Surf runs with most participants and most kilometres run.

NIB Insurance awarded prizes to the biggest regional City to Surf events, with the Prime Health-led events in these two Pilbara towns winning a total of $10,000

Pannawonica won most kilometres run by a medium size team, meanwhile Wickham won biggest team and most kilometres run for over 101 participants

Paraburdoo skate park reopens

The Paraburdoo Skate Park has recently reopened with a bright new look.

Children from the Paraburdoo Primary School designed artwork and spent time after school transferring the artwork onto the various jumps.

The skate park project also featured in the General Appearance category of the 2009/2010 Paraburdoo Tidy Towns submission.

Rio Tinto arranged for the jumps to be stripped of paint, primed and then sealed after the painting was completed. Also thank you to 3D Paint Supply for the donation of the spray paints.

Congratulations to all the teachers, children and parents involved with this fantastic project.

Paraburdoo Community Forum

On the 7th of September Rio Tinto Robe Valley and Accommodation and Towns Management Teams held a Community Forum.

About 70 people were present to listen to the updates from both parties as well as ask any questions about the town and mines future.

This was then followed by supper provided by Urs Catering.
Sport News

Touch Season About to Begin for Another Year

Tom Price pool reopens just in time for summer

The highly anticipated 2010-11 Touch season is shaping up to be another successful year.

Scratch games have commenced on Friday nights at 7pm on Clem Thompson Oval and the competition will most likely commence under lights on Friday October 15 and any new players are always welcome.

There will be a return to the old format, voted in at the 2010 AGM, where all teams will compete over the full season in the one Division.

A further change to the timing, means that games will run for 20 minute-halves (down from 25 minutes last season) and a later start at 7pm (previously 6.30pm), to give shift workers and Marandoo FIFO more time to get there.

Ten teams have nominated. Previous team Slayers have folded and a new team Galahs will come onboard. Castaways and Mauling Boners will again be the teams to beat with very healthy squads and a long track record of success.

Castaways dominated last season and looked to make it three in a row, but were beaten by a very spirited Boners team, who incidentally were playing in their sixth straight Grand Final. Their win was on the back of vintage games from Kev Walsh and Pat Cave who upset their fancied rivals. Panthers, Sharks and Boondies will also provide stiff competition having recruited strongly in the off-season, although all teams have had their share of departures from town.

There were also some key defections with the biggest coup being the shift of last season’s MVP, Barry Ellison and Miria Taua going from Panthers to join all their ‘cuzie bro’s at Typhoons. Panthers also lost Bronte Tyrell-Starcevich who signed a lucrative contract to join Sharks. Castaways will welcome back club legend Alia Pilot and Cori Tipene, but will lose Syreeta Fawcett and Sari Nona for this season under similar circumstances – pregnancy! Jayke Emmerton will be a very handy recruit for B Troop, and Hooligans have acquired the services of Sarah Langlois. Budgies season will depend on how long they can keep Michael (Razor) Reyland, who made a huge impact in the couple of games he played earlier this year. The Galahs line-up is a complete mystery at present, so it will be very interesting to see how their team takes shape, and where the remnants of Slayers players end up.

Most teams still have an opening for new players as there is always a constant turnover of members throughout the year. By player numbers alone, Tom Price Touch is the largest sporting organisation in town having an annual registration of around 200 players in any one year. A check through the register indicated that over 600 players registered for Touch in the last three years which gives a fair indication of the very transient nature of the population of town.

The season kicks off Friday October 15. To find out more please contact Jim Gordon on 91433559.

Advertising Enquiries

Advertising and news enquiries can be directed to Bianca Thair on 9188 4444 or email bianca.thair@ashburton.wa.gov.au

As this is a small newsletter and there is only limited space, priority will be given to the businesses/not-for-profit groups that get their advertising and news stories in first. Please contact us soon to avoid missing out.

If you would like a copy of the advertising rate card please contact Bianca Thair or visit www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

Newsletter Drops

The Shire of Ashburton is supporting the community by giving a different not-for-profit group from each town, every month the chance to deliver its newsletter. If you would like to find out more please contact Bianca Thair at the Shire.