



February 2024

SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS

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YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



From the Shire President

Pauline Bantock



2024 here we are! I hope you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year celebrations. It feels like the festive season was just yesterday, yet the first month of the year has already passed by.

The Shire held their Christmas party on the 16th December and I would like thank the team at Yerecoin Traders who created a beautiful function space and meal for us. It was great to get the Team together and reflect on our achievements during 2023. Just as we finished our meals, the thunder started to rumble, and a lightning storm rolled through the district. Like so many others across the Shire, the knives and forks were set down and some of our team rushed off to deal with fires. There is something about that time of year, with another big December fire in Mogumber putting the team under pressure, nearly 4 years to the day of the last big one. I witnessed our amazing volunteer fire fighters firsthand. It was challenging conditions with thick vegetation, sandy terrain and multiple assets to protect. Our brigades and local volunteers did what they do best, under the leadership of our Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Gavin and Deputy Simon. Our Community Emergency Services Manager, Nic, aided and the Shire's works crew delivered water tankers and generators. Volunteer brigades from surrounding areas and even from as far as the Perth hills, came to relieve our crews, giving us some much-needed shut eye. After a long night, we were so thankful for their help. It wasn't just Mogumber that had fires to deal with, as the dry lightning caused multiple ignition points across the Shire. Thank you to every individual who contributed, including the locals who fetched food and drink for the crews and the local businesses who stepped up to make meals next day. After the event, I had to opportunity to highlight the Shire's concern over fit for purpose fire trucks in the sand terrain of the west of the Shire. Thanks to the ABC and 6PR who help take up our fight. The fire consumed about 3 days of the local's time and before we knew it, Christmas was upon us.

I got to witness the hard work of community volunteers once again during the New Year's Eve Rodeo. With 3500 people in attendance, it is the biggest event in the Shire of Victoria Plains and over 80 volunteers work around the clock to look after the visitors and fundraise for their community.

A new year commenced and it did seem like groundhog day for a little while, with more fires consuming the hours of our volunteers. The hot conditions & storms certainly haven't helped our cause.

We got to formally thank a couple of our local legends during our Australia Day celebrations. Congratulations to Nicky Brennan and her Yerecoin Markets for winning the Active Citizenship Award for an Event. The Yerecoin Markets have become one of the best markets in regional WA and attract so many visitors to our Shire. And congratulations to the Scott Metcalfe for taking out the Citizen of the Year award, nominated by several community groups for the hours of volunteer work he contributes to the district. Fire Brigade, Progress Association, Mogumber Hub and the NYE Rodeo, his practical hands and problem-solving mind are an asset to Victoria Plains. The Calingiri Club put on a wonderful Australia Day event with all ages catered for over the full day of festivities. Feedback from the event shows the hand painting activity with the Yued Elders was a highlight and I cant wait to the artwork on display in our Shire.

I had more opportunity to meet with volunteers during the Shire's Sport & Recreation plan briefing. The Shire is in the initial phase of preparing this plan and is interacting with the community groups who contribute to sport & recreation within the Shire. The collaboration of shire assets and community volunteers is necessary to create the lifestyle we enjoy here in Victoria Plains.

The volunteers of our Victoria Plains truly inspire me. Thank you!

Kind Regards,

Cr. Pauline Bantock
Shire President

From the Chief Executive Officer

Sean Fletcher



Hello From The CEO

The Shire has got off to a very good start to the year. January was a busy month that saw commencement of the formal road works on the Calingiri New Norcia Rd Intersection project and a very successful Australia Day event hosted by the Calingiri Sports Club.

At the Australia Day breakfast, the Yued Elders performed the welcome to country and told us a little bit about their history and the long connection they have had across the District. The Elders then presented the Shire with two paintings. The first of these was a “hand print” painting. The painting consisted of a canvas with Calingiri, Wongan Hills and Lake Ninan depicted on it. We were then invited to all put our hand prints on it, using acrylic paints. The second painting is a dot painting representing Lake Ninan.

Silvio has a more detailed report regarding the progress on the Intersection project and I have been busy submitting approvals for funding from key project stakeholders.

In amongst these key events, we have had numerous fires and also the storm that impacted widely not only across Victoria Plains, but the Wheatbelt and other areas. We also assisted Wongan Hills with road closures on our end and also messaging through social media.

The impact of the storm was varied, with some losing power for a substantial period of time and others losing telecommunications. For the Shire, we were fully stretched dealing with debris caused by the storm and also supporting our volunteer fire fighters as best we could, on the back of limited communication. I would like to thank all those involved in helping get our communities through these impacts.

In the month ahead, I will be continuing a number of tasks I have responsibility for including the following:

- The development of the Shire’s economic development strategy. This will include an engagement process that will see both a survey used and six workshops with businesses and others across the Shire regarding the economic environment the Shire operates in as well as identifying economic opportunities going forward;
- AROC (Victoria Plains, Goomalling and Toodyay) – Shire of Dandaragan Housing Investigation. Currently, I am the project chair of this group. The purpose of the housing investigation is to determine the housing need for workers across the four local government areas. A survey has been running since before Christmas and is due to finish on 23 February 2024. So, it would be appreciated if you could undertake the survey if you haven’t already done so. To date, over 60% of businesses are telling us that they need an additional 2 – 5 employees, and so accommodation to match this demand.

In case you are unaware, the Shire has a phone service that now operates 24/7. Calls that we receive after hours go through to our service provider: Well Done. The person who answers the call will either give you advice regarding the nature of your enquiry or will contact the relevant officer in the case of an emergency. The Shire’s contact number (9628 7004) can be found on the Contact’s Page:

<https://www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au/contact-us.aspx>

Here is to a rewarding time for you regarding the month ahead.

Kind Regards,

Sean Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer

From the Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Colin Ashe



A belated Happy New Year to all residents and ratepayer. After a well earned break, which lets face it, we all struggle to come back to work, the new year has kicked off well. January was a relatively quiet month and generally the period of lull for myself and team to recharge the batteries before we ramp up again.

To give some context, Feb 24 is busy already with Sport and Recreation Master Plan meeting occurring on the 6 Feb at Mogumber and another planned for the 14 Feb, Electors meeting on the 14 Feb as well, council briefing session on the 19 Feb, council meeting which includes an Audit committee meeting on the 28 Feb and a roll out of a new Records Management system on the 29 Feb. Staff are also on some training in between including the very important First Aid.

Then we're into Mar 24 and we start planning for the 24/25 budget and interim Audit, which seems the Auditors were only here a few months ago!

Finance Update 23-24

As at the 30 Dec 23 the following progress has been made on Capital Activities:

Activity	Cost (\$)	Status
Retaining Wall – Calingiri Aged Persons Units	17,537	Complete
Oval Pump Shed	14,840	Complete
Oval Pump System	63,771	Complete
Bolgart Kerbing	18,446	Complete
Footpaths	23,885	Complete
RV Dump Point - Bolgart	9,717	Complete
Calingiri – Carani East Road	63,760	In Progress
Mogumber-Yarawindah Road	2,280,205	In Progress
Boundary Road Resheet	20,518	Complete
Piawaning Desalination Plant	58,211	In Progress

Other Projects / Strategic Planning

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) – as mentioned earlier the Records Management module in the new computer system is planned to go live on the 29 Feb. This follows the Customer Service Module which is working well. Payroll will be the next module which is advanced in its roll out but has to align somewhat with the financial system which is also on track. A quick mention to my staff (Marie, Ericha, Glenn and Zoe) who along with their normal operational duties are spending a great deal of effort to make sure we get this right.

Incidentally the CEO and myself have received a number of calls from other shires on what we are doing in this space and how we are going about it – the Shire of Victoria Plains is quickly becoming a leader in this particular strategic outcome.

Sport and Recreation Master Plan (SRMP) – the second in a series of meetings as part of stakeholder engagement occurred at Mogumber on the 6 Feb 24 and was very positive. The intent was to give attendees some guidance on completion of a questionnaire which will form the baseline of the content of the SRMP as a key foundation document. As noted earlier there will be a final stakeholder engagement meeting on the 14 Feb and then questionnaires will be required to be submitted by the 01 Mar.

Continued on from Colin Ashe

From there, responses will be collated through the expert consultant we have engaged to form the draft SRMP, advice to stakeholder groups what has gone in and why, adoption by council and then implementation over the next five years. To set expectations, I envisage because of timing, 2024/25 may not see significant capital expenditure but rather some quick wins as we seek grant funding and most importantly ensure we plan to ensure we are able to afford the operational and maintenance costs.

I am very positive that we will have, and be able to implement what is set out in the SRMP which will be a balance of the requests, usability and affordability over the long term.

Office Refurbishment – the shire office will be undertaking a budgeted and well overdue mini refurbishment over the coming months. We won't be getting rid of the funky wall colours we have in the office just yet (and which I don't mind if I'm honest!) – but we will be getting rid of the multi-coloured partitions and have some new desks installed, creating additional workspace in the process. As part of this we intend to call for bids on the old furniture (in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 and policy for disposal of property) which will be conducted on line to the highest bidder. Stay tuned for more information on the process should be interested.

Kind Regards,
Colin Ashe
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Ordinary Council Meeting

Will be held
Wednesday
28th February 2024
Commencing at 2:00pm in the
Calingiri Council Chambers

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

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From the Manager Works and Services

Silvio Brenzi



The main project focused on this year has been the New Norcia/Toodyay Bindi-Bindi Rd Intersection. Major earthworks commenced on the 8th January, with material from the CBH site and sub base material from the adjoining land to the south. To date, in excess of 20,000 tones has been moved to gain the correct alignment with the rail line. As the crossing is on a part of line that is curved, the two existing rails are not flat or level to create the correct camber for the train. This requires the road leading up to each side to match the gradient. This varies from 1.19% to 3.9%.

Gravel for the base course is being carted from the Burnett Rd pit run by Catalano's and will total 10,000 tones once all complete. A stockpile will remain on site for the connection points to New Norcia Rd once ARC Infrastructure have constructed the rail crossing itself. This will allow us to open the road somewhat for traffic control on the existing road whilst the connections are made.

Finishing the project will depend on ARC Infrastructure completing their work, which we are working with closely to expediate. Sealing of the road wont happen until it can be opened to traffic as this is required to help with the adherence of the aggregate to the surface.

Work on the RRG project on 2.58km of Toodyay Bindi-Bindi Rd has also commenced. This involves Contractors laying 100mm of new gravel over the top and wet mixing it in to a depth of 300mm with a stabilising machine. A new seal of 8 meters wide will then be done by another contractor. Initial works are planned to finish mid February, and sealing to follow directly after. Traffic control is in place for these works.



Kind regards,
Silvio Brenzi
Manager - Works and Services

From the Community Development Officer Katrina Humphries



What a start to 2024 already. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year period and managed to all get a well deserved break.

On the 26th of January we had our Australia Day Event which this year was hosted by the Calingiri Sports Club. This event was assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council and what a jam packed full day we had.

The weather was on our side which made it a great day for the outdoor entertainment that was planned. The two bands provided some great evening music for everyone and breakfast, lunch and dinner was perfect. Well done to the Calingiri Sports club for organising the breakfast and lunch and to Naomi Auhl for making it through the dinner rush that night.

Thank you to the Moody family for providing us with the Welcome To Country and the history of their connection to this land. They also donated a beautiful painting representing Lake Ninan and then everyone got to participate in painting a canvas with our hand prints as a representation of "Uniting".

Congratulations to our 2 Citizen Award recipients, Scott Metcalfe and Nicky Brennan. Scott won the Citizen of the Year award for his amazing contribution to the community and Nicky Brennan received the Active Citizenship award as founder of the Yerecoin Markets.

Biggest thank you and well done goes to the Calingiri Sports Club committee members and all of their other extra helpers that they had enlisted to not only prepare for the day, but also their efforts on the day as well.



Kind Regards,
Katrina Humphries
Community Development Officer

The Shire of Victoria Plains is participating in a study with the Wheatbelt Development Commission to analyse housing demand for key workers in the area. The study seeks to understand housing stock needs currently and into the future. To help understand housing needs, we would like input from the business community, farming enterprise, key workers and other interested community members. Please complete the survey and hand into the shire office before 23 February 2024.

Industry and Business Community Workforce Housing Investigation Needs Survey - Shires of Toodyay, Goomalling, Victoria Plains and Dandaragan

AROC Housing Investigation in conjunction with the Wheatbelt Development Commission

1. Which Local Government Area is your business located in?

2. Name of Business/Farming Enterprise

3. How many workers do you employ?

4. Is there a gap/shortage in your workforce?

Yes

No

5. If Yes to question 4 above, how many additional workers do you need?

6. Where do your workers live?

- On the farm
- Locally in town
- Elsewhere - Drive in Drive out

7. What are the housing needs or gaps for your employees?

8. Does your Business supply housing/accommodation for your workers?

- Yes
- No

9. If your business/farm supplies worker housing please indicate the number and type of accommodation.

- On Farm
- Owned in town
- Rented in town
- 1 dwelling
- 2 dwellings
- 3 dwellings
- 4 or more dwellings
- Room only

Other (please specify)

10. Generally do you consider that the type of the housing stock meets your employees needs? (ie rental options)

Satisfied

Dissatisfied

Other (please specify)

11. If the answer to question 10 is Dissatisfied, please comment on what you consider is needed to meet the housing needs.

12. What are the barriers for investing in housing infrastructure for your workers?

13. What would enable you to invest in housing for your employees?



SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS & CALINGIRI SPORTS CLUB



A U S T R A L I A D A Y 2 0 2 4

Ref. Community and Stakeholder Relationships
Contact: Nicholas Fitzgerald, 9326 4850

2 February 2024

Heartfelt thank you for your support during the recent weather events

In challenging times the strength, compassion and resilience of communities is revealed. Western Power and the people of the Perth Hills, Wheatbelt and Goldfields certainly demonstrated this during the recent consecutive severe weather events.

As you know, the storm experienced on January 17 caused damage to Western Power's network, resulting in wide-spread customer power outages to around 34,000 homes and businesses. We understand the frustration and inconvenience the storm related power outages caused your community and can assure you that there was a common commitment across everyone in Western Power to restore power as quickly and safely as possible to the communities we serve.

Responding to events of this magnitude requires many organisations and many people to work collaboratively. On behalf of everyone at Western Power, I wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you for your organisation's contribution and collaboration during the response. I would like to acknowledge your support and patience in enabling us to restore power to affected residents.

The restoration effort was immense, with 700 plus Western Power workers from all depots attending repairs and addressing more than 300 hazards across a vast area of the network. Work involved repairing and replacing around 300 poles, 80 transformers, around 21kms of conductor in the distribution network in the Perth Hills, Wongan Hills and the Wheatbelt. Damage to the transmission network was also repaired including the use of 12, 32-metre-high steel poles in an innovative design that enabled the quick restoration of the 220kV line to Kalgoorlie-Boulder on which five lattice towers were destroyed.

The repair to the network couldn't have been achieved without the support and patience of the community, the contribution of our suppliers, contractors, landowners and the hard work and commitment of our people. Additionally, the support of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and local authorities ensured a coordinated effort which was invaluable.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Samantha Torrens
Head of Community and Stakeholders



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westernpower.com.au



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After a number of years of planning, fundraising and hard work, it was with great excitement that we were able to turn on our new court lights.

YERECOIN TENNIS CLUB

The Yerecoin Tennis Club is half-way through another very successful year of social tennis. We are a Club of approximately 85 members, and we welcome anyone who wants to come and have a go to get in touch. We mainly play social tennis on Sunday afternoons and we will now be adding some evening tennis through February, March and April.



Lights officially turned on!
 Colin Ashe, Shire of Victoria Plains Deputy CEO,
 Nicky Brennan, Yerecoin Progress Association President
 Tim Walker, Yerecoin Tennis Club President



Sponsors & Support

We would like to take this opportunity to thank The Yerecoin Progress Association for their support of the Court Lighting Project as well as their many years of support in helping keep our Club vibrant and successful.

We also had exceptional sponsorship from many local families and businesses – our Club would not be able to operate without your support. We thank you and look forward to seeing you at the club.

The Court Lighting was also supported by The Shire of Victoria Plains - Community Budget Grants. Our thanks to The Shire for their support.

PROHIBITED BURNING

Victoria Plains is now in prohibited burning season.

All signs of fire call 000, for Alerts & Warnings
visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au

To be added to the Shire's SMS list for Fire and Harvest ban updates please go to:
<https://www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au/your-shire/services/emergency-management.aspx>
to register your details.

CLEANER WANTED

Services Required

- 2 hours per week
- Dusting
- Vacuuming
- Mopping
- Bathroom

Requirements

- ABN
- Police Clearance

Contact us Barbara for more information on
barbarakelly45@bigpond.com



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION CUTOFF

Newsletter submissions are due by
4:00 pm on the last Friday of the month.

All submissions to be emailed to:
candice.watson@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Late submissions may not be accepted.

Local Containers for Change Member numbers accepting donations



Calingiri Primary School P&C Association—C10344336
Yerecoin Primary School P&C Association—C10283746
Bolgart Primary School P&C Association—C10324137
Mogumber Outback Club—C10671492
Gillingarra Sport & Recreation Club—C10291910
Calingiri Sports Club—C10232342
Mogumber & Districts Progress Association Inc - C10480955
Calingiri Progress Association - C10399453
Piawaning Expo Inc - C11085061

If you would like your group to be included on this list please email reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au



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