

SHIRE NOTES



Amalgamations Debate

The Minister for Local Government and Regional Development gave local governments until the 31 August 2009 to advise him of their amalgamation intentions – with the statement *If you don't want to do it, I'll do it*. This deadline has now been extended to 30 September 2009.

At the Local Government Convention, the Premier, the Minister and Brendon Grylls all gave a very strong message urging local governments to consider amalgamation with the Premier indicating the 139 local governments should reduce to a number substantially less than 100. It was suggested that Local Governments with a population of less than 1,000 would wither and die. It was also stated the Royalties for Regions funding would be redirected to reward those local governments who had embraced the Government's direction.

On 13 August 58 people listed to advise from WALGA and the Shire's consultant employed to respond to the Government and considered a draft position paper prepared for the evening. Questions were answered and discussions continued following the meetings closure.

Council resolve on 20 August for it's project team to continue to meet potential amalgamation partners to flesh out it's submission.

Further advice was given by the National Party on 21 August that it will support formalised Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) as an alternative to amalgamation.

Budget

Council has adopted it's 2009/10 Budget – with an overall rate increase of 3%. The Budget includes a huge works program bolstered by the Royalties for Regions funding from the State Government and RLCIP funding from the Federal Government. These works include:

- Kadjiny Kep changerooms / public toilets, pathways, fencing
- Tammin Hall kitchen and Lesser Hall upgrade
- Cemetery toilet
- Tennis courts shade shelter
- Donnan Park shade cover over playground
- Donnan Park BBQ facility
- Tamma Village fencing
- Town street lighting
- Entrance statements
- Next Event signage
- 6 wheeler truck
- New 2 x 1 residence
- Dam spillway and pump

Roadworks (gravel sheeting) are also planned for sections of:

- Goldfields Rd
- Tammin South Rd
- Yorkrakine Rd

- Waltham Rd
- Yorkrakine Rock Rd
- Leslie Rd
- Chappell Wheeldon Rd
- Quartermaine Rd
- Quinn Rogers Rd
- Livesey North Rd
- Blakiston Rd
- Franklin Rd
- Nelson Rd
- Barrack Rd
- Hocking Rd
- Youering Rd
- Rabbit Proof Fence Rd

The Budget also includes the traditional support to the various groups and associations in Tammin through the Community Grants process.

Once again, there is an early payment competition – with accommodation prizes provided by the *Esplanade Hotel Fremantle* and *Seasons of Perth*.

Rate notices are in the mail – if you haven't received yours there is obviously a problem – a call to the Staff at the Shire Office should be able to resolve this.

Entertainment

Country Arts WA has released it's 2009 Touring Menu and has invited voting to determine which of the 18 productions, including theatre, music, physical theatre, comedy, and puppetry get to tour.

LotteryWest has provided \$22,500 funding to the Shire of Tammin for audience development to promote 5 shows – so the voting is very relevant.

Full details are available from Country Arts WA on regional free call 1800 811 883 or download the Menu (2.4mb) from:

http://www.countryartswa.asn.au/cms/cawa/pages/communities/bringing/bringing_touring.html

The voting slip is on page 3 of the Menu or on-line at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3_2bq1w8TRBeJB94td6z4FmA_3d_3d.

Voting closes on 12 September – so be quick. Why not email or fax a copy of your vote into the Shire Office (9637 1117) to help determine which shows actually get to Tammin?

Rabbit Proof Fence Memorial Project

A Steering Committee has been formed to progress a proposal for a memorial to be constructed in Cunderdin for the No 2 Rabbit Proof Fence together with a drive trail linking similar sites around the State for the No 1, No 2 and No 3 Fences.

The Committee plans to meet quarterly with the first meeting to be held on Friday 23 October in Cunderdin. A representative from Tammin is sought to serve on this Committee. Is there someone who has an interest in representing Tammin?

Volunteer Grants 2009

\$21 million is available for Volunteer Grants 2009. Applications are open for six weeks from Friday 14 August to 25 September 2009.

Grants and funding is to encourage and support volunteers. Volunteer Grants 2009 provides funding for eligible non-profit organisations to support their volunteers and encourage volunteering by: purchasing practical and tangible small equipment items to help volunteers; and/or contributing towards the reimbursement of volunteers' fuel costs incurred when carrying out their volunteering work, including those who use their cars to transport others to activities, deliver food and assist people in need.

Organisations can apply for grant funding from a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$5,000. Funding is limited and applications will be assessed and prioritised according to how strongly they meet the selection criteria. The selection criteria, eligibility criteria and other essential information about Volunteer Grants 2009 are provided in the guidelines.

For more information (including an on-line application form) please visit:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grant09.aspx

or contact the Volunteer Grants Team – Phone: toll-free Hotline 1800 183 374 or Email: vg2009@fahcsia.gov.au

Prisoner Work Camp

Sporting bodies and community groups are invited to contact the Work Camp for help or support in any projects.

Vacancy – Community Development Officer

A vacancy exists for the position of Community Development Officer with the Shire of Tammin. Council has reviewed the salary level for this position and has increased it to \$25,370-\$26,588 for a 3 day week. The position is strongly performance based allowing a good deal of flexibility. Anyone with an interest is urged to call and discuss the position.

For further information on any of these issues, please contact your local Councillor or the Staff at the Shire Office.

Mick Oliver, Chief Executive Officer