

October/November 2013

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Newsletter of Wickepin Shire Council

# THE SHIRE...



## Letter from the Editor

With Christmas approaching, there are lots of events that are happening around the Shire; garden days, the Melbourne cup, Oasis Christmas Party...and that's just a few! Wickepin may be small, but it sure does pack a lot into its calendar!

I think the farmers have had their fair share of rain now and everyone is welcoming some warmer weather! I know I am anyway...it has felt far too much like home in England for my liking!

Something that has come into effect recently is the Cat Act. Everyone needs to make sure their cats are registered, micro-chipped and sterilised. For registration, pop into the Shire and Lou Leeson will sort you out!

Leah Pearson  
Executive Support Officer



## **THE OASIS HOTEL CHRISTMAS PARTY**



**SATURDAY 14  
DECEMBER 2013**

## **Harvest and Fire Ban 2013/2014 Season**

Harvesting is banned on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Lighting of fires are banned on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

## **Burning Periods 2013 - 2014**

### **Restricted Burning**

1 October 2013 to 13 November 2013

### **Prohibited Burning**

14 November 2013 to 7 February 2014

### **Restricted Burning**

8 February 2013 to 28 April 2014



**IN CASE OF FIRE RING 000**

**Harvest Ban Hotline: 9888 1312**



# HAPPENINGS AROUND YOUR SHIRE...



**Council has taken delivery of the New Hino Truck on 19 August 2013. It is being used for carting and various maintenance work.**

**Photos taken around the Shire...**

## Transfer Stations

The Manager of Works has commenced work on the transfer stations at Yealering, Harrismith and Tincurrin. All sites have been cleared and leveled and engineering drawings have been done for the retaining walls. Could all residents please continue to dump their waste in the trenches and areas as marked.

### Harrismith before and after



### Tincurrin before and after



### Yealering before and after







# 2013 Community Awards

These awards are presented in recognition of Community Achievement in the Shire of Wickepin.



... Citizen of the Year Award ...  
... Young Citizen of the Year Award ...  
... Senior Citizen of the Year Award ...  
... Community Group Award ...  
... Progressive Agricultural Award — Facey Group ...

The awards will be presented at the Australia Day breakfast on 26 January 2014

**Nominations close Friday 6 December 2013**

Nomination forms are available at the shire office or at [www.wickepin.wa.gov.au](http://www.wickepin.wa.gov.au)



For Further information please contact Leah Pearson on 9888 1005 or email [eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au](mailto:eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au)



# YOUR SWIMMING POOL...



The Wickepin Swimming Pool will be open as of **Friday 1 November 2013**. Damien the Pool Manager will be more than happy to help you with any queries you have.

The opening times are 1.00pm-6.00pm every day.

The swimming pool fees are as follows;

Adult	\$2.00
Child/Pensioner/Spectator	\$1.00
Season Pass - Family	\$120.00
Season Pass - Adult	\$70.00
Season Pass - Child	\$50.00
School Swimming Pool Lessons/Carnivals - For Children	\$0.50



**Damien the Pool Manager**



**Our Building/Health Officer Alan Ramsey sampling the water in compliance with health regulations before the pool opens on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.**



This season watch out for the new signs at the centre.

The platform at the deep end of the pool has been lowered to comply with the latest ruling, which considered it too high for a pool depth of only 1.8 metres. In fact, Pool Guidelines state that you shouldn't dive from the side of a pool into water less than 1.8 metres deep.

The gardeners have been busy beautifying the centre with a plantation of bushes and installing a reticulation system around the perimeter of the premises.

There are plans that discussion is underway for choosing some shade trees to be planted in the front car park; that will be another welcome improvement, even if we will have to wait a while to appreciate the full cooling effect and aesthetic pleasure of their foliage!

Don't forget the pool is equipped with a BBQ which everyone is welcome to use.





# Wander to Wickepin

Wander to Wickepin took place between 21st September to 8th October 2013.

Although there were more caravans going through Wickepin rather than stopping and making the most of the discounted offer, it was still a success and the word was spread to those caravaners who were unaware of Wander to Wickepin.

The Wander to Wickepin Bush Dance was held at the Wickepin Community Centre on Friday 27 September 2013. Apparently Mr Helfgott lived up to his family's reputation of displaying some special musical talents. Everyone had a good night, and thanks to all those in the organisation of Wander to Wickepin.



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Wander to Wickepin -Spring  
of 2013



## WICKEPIN TRIATHLON

Saturday 22 February 2014

Four different courses:

Long (Swim 400m, Bike 14km, Run 3km)

Short (Swim 200m, Bike 7km, Run 2km)

Junior (Swim 100m, Bike 1km, Run 1km)

Mini (Swim 50m, Bike 500m, Run 500m)

More information to come!



As from 1  
November 2013 the full *Cat Act*  
2011 comes into effect.

All cats that have reached six months of age  
are required to be microchipped, sterilised and  
registered with the Shire of Wickepin.

Your cat will need to wear a collar and registration  
tag to ensure they can be easily identified and  
returned to you if they become lost.

Fines will be enforced if a cat is found  
without the appropriate  
requirements.



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Local Government and Communities



## A word from the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

With crops and winter grasses now drying off around the Shire, harvest will soon be upon us and the fire season will begin.

Currently we are in a Restricted Burning Period, so outdoor burning is permitted, but only if you have a burning permit. After November 13th, no outdoor burning is permitted in the shire at all, until February 8th 2014.

All firebreaks should be in place now, and looking around the Shire, there are many firebreaks that have fallen short of what would be considered ideal. It has been a difficult year to achieve a permanent grass kill, so well done to those who have managed to put in firebreaks that are up to standard.

There have been some questions raised about 'Harvesting and Vehicle Movement' bans, especially as to what exactly they apply to. Put simply, during a 'Harvest and Vehicle Movement' ban, no vehicle (including trucks and stationary engines) are permitted to be used on any private (or public) land, including farm roads. The only exemption to this Law is for essentially fire units carrying water to provide livestock with drinking water.

All vehicles are however allowed to operate on any registered public road. Your Fire Control Officers will all acknowledge that some aspects of this Law are impractical (such as the need to pick up kids from the school bus), however we ask that you continue to respect our intention of keeping everyone safe and avoid vehicle movements on farmland unless essential.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Fire Control Officers, Shire staff and our many fire volunteers around the district for the work they have done in preparing for this summer. The good season we have had will make controlling any fires that do start more difficult, it will be very important to get on to them quickly. I am confident we are as well prepared as we can be, and wish everyone all the best for their harvest.

**Tim Heffernan**  
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer





# YOUR COUNCIL...



Shire of Wickepin

## COMMITTEE MEETING NOMINATIONS

### VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES

The Shire of Wickepin is requesting nominations for community representation on the following committees:

- Townscape & Cultural Planning Committee
- Lifestyle Retirement Committee
- Harrismith Community Centre
- Representative for Narrogin Healthy Lifestyles Project

All current members MUST re-nominate.

Nominations can be received via email, fax or letter to the following;

Shire of Wickepin  
PO Box 19  
WICKEPIN WA 6370

Phone: 08 9888 1005  
Fax: 08 9888 1074  
Email: [eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au](mailto:eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au)

Closing date for entering nominations is 4.00pm Monday 11 November 2013.

For any information or queries please contact Leah Pearson at the Shire of Wickepin administration office on 08 9888 1005 or email [eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au](mailto:eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au).

Mark J Hook  
Chief Executive Officer  
17 October 2013

## A word from the CEO...

This period has seen a few staff movements with the retirement of our mechanic Phil and our Senior Finance Manager Bronwyn Dew moving onto greener pastures. So we have been able to attract two great new staff members to take over these positions. Our new mechanic is Clinton Charles, Clinton is a Local Narrogin person and has settled in very nicely to his new position. The Finance Officer position has been taken up by Kerry Fisher whom comes to us from private enterprise but with previous local government knowledge from the Shire of Derby East Kimberley. We welcome you both to the Shire of Wickepin workforce and community.

We are well into the 2013/14 financial year but due to the removal of the Country Local Government Fund to the Shire of Wickepin, the following projects have had to be withdrawn from Councils Budgets until alternative funding can be arranged:

Wickepin Community Centre Car Park	2013/14	\$100,000
Wickepin Sports Flooring	2013/14	\$15,000
Wickepin Business Incubators	2013/14	\$233,868
Regional Waste Facilities	2013/14	\$97,148
Aged Persons Accommodation Units	2014/15	\$62,687
Caravan Park Upgrades	2015/16	\$248,868
Heritage Trails	2015/16	\$100,000
Harrismith Townscape Upgrade	2015/16	
Harrismith Hall Upgrade	2016/17	\$100,000
Wickepin Districts Sports Club Upgrade	2016/17	\$98,868
Wickepin Tennis Courts synthetics Upgrade	2016/17	\$150,000
Wickepin Community Resource Centre Upgrade	2016/17	\$348,868

The Shire Staff continue to work well and have completed some major road projects during the year.

I would like to welcome the new Councillors; Wes Astbury and Grayden Lang. Thanks to Kevin Coxon and Dave Astbury for your many years of service at the Shire of Wickepin.

Good to see that it looks like this year we will be a good harvest and hope it all goes well for everyone this year.

Mark Hook  
Chief Executive Officer



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ewatch will be replacing the Rural Watch system that the Police has in place in Wickepin.

Any information that the Wickepin Police needs to get out into the community quickly, must now go through ewatch.

You must register with ewatch and all registered members will receive an email from them as well as other safety initiatives and information.

Please visit [www.ewatch.com.au](http://www.ewatch.com.au) for more information and to register.