



SHIRE OF

# Capel Snippets

April/May 2008

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Congratulations to the Capelfest Committee for an excellent event, its wonderful to see so many people coming into Capel to enjoy what is now a 'must do' event on the annual calendar. The Capel Art Classic was also very successful with 140 entries and I would like to acknowledge the Dalyellup Art Group for their involvement.



Liz Byrski

I must also congratulate our wonderful library staff for an excellent Visiting Author evening with Liz Byrski. The evening attracted an audience of 140 who enjoyed a wonderful presentation as well as local cheese and wine. Another event is planned for Boyanup on Thursday 15th May, with visiting author Sarah Evans, details of which will be in the local newsletters, or by contacting our library staff.



We certainly are having many fantastic events being held in the Shire, the majority of which are run solely by volunteers the backbone of our communities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the wonderful work you are doing and to assure you that it is noticed and appreciated.

Many of you may know of Lesley Jackes from the Shire's Community Development Team, and we are proud to say that Lesley has recently returned from presenting a very successful paper at the Mural Conference in Tasmania. Well done Lesley!

**Paul Sheedy - Chief Executive Officer**

## Community Forums

Over the past three months Council and senior staff have attended five forums in the communities of Peppermint Grove Beach, Boyanup, Capel, Gelorup and Dalyellup. The forums have provided an excellent opportunity to provide information to community members and to obtain suggestions, comments, brickbats and bouquets from the community.

Staff and councillors have welcomed the interaction and are of the opinion these forums have been a success. The next round

of community forums are scheduled to be held around September / October 2008 to coincide with the budget for the new financial year.

## Plan for the Future

A plan of major works such as roads, rubbish, recreation and rates has been prepared and will shortly be released for public comment.

This Plan provides an outline of the possible expenditure and funding streams for these works over the next four financial years. It provides a financial road map of the main items in Council's annual budgets. Copies of the Plan will be available

on the Shire's website and at the libraries.

## Strategic Plan

Council and staff are in the process of reviewing the Shire's Strategic Plan. The first stage of 'vision' workshops with Councillors and staff has been completed and the results will be consolidated into a document outlining where the organization is and where it wants to be. This document will be used as an input for the next stage scheduled to occur over the next few months. This stage will be to determine how the organization can achieve this vision by identifying and detailing key objectives and strategies.

Once completed and considered by Council the revised Strategic Plan will be released for public comment. It is likely this will occur some time in late 2008.

## Meetings of Council

Council meetings are held every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. Agendas and minutes can be found on the Shire's website [www.capel.wa.gov.au](http://www.capel.wa.gov.au)

## **2008/09 Budget**

Work to prepare Council's budget for the next financial year is well underway with council having already considered a number of items. Unlike the State Government, the Shire does not have the luxury of a large budget surplus. Balancing the Shire's budget is a challenging task that is becoming increasingly difficult. Unfortunately increases in rates are inevitable as the cost of materials, services, contracts and labour increase each year. Some people think that due to our rapid rate of growth that we are benefiting from increased rate revenue. This is true to a point, however the reality is that more properties means more people being provided with and requiring more services. The result is this increased revenue is soon fully allocated.

The 2008/09 Budget is scheduled to be adopted by Council in late July with Council meeting in the months before hand to discuss budget requests, the draft budget and proposed rates.

## **Systemic Sustainability Study (SSS) Report**

In late February, the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) launched a document proposing a 10 year plan for the future of local government in WA. The draft document titled 'The Journey: Sustainability into the Future', proposes a model for future local government and contains a number of recommendations for reform. The sustainability model envisages the provision of local government services at a regional level through a regional council or similar while retaining decision making at the present Council level. Unlike local government industry reform suggested by other groups, the WALGA plan does not propose amalgamation of Councils. 'The plan is predicated on voluntary participation by Local Government as WALGA has maintained that determination of need and

action should be the decision of individual Councils and their communities', WALGA Cr Bill Mitchell, said at the launch.

The draft document has been released for comment with Councils requested to provide feedback by the middle of June. Your Council will consider their comments at their first meeting in April. Once completed, WALGA will provide the document to the State Government and it would effectively represent the local government sector's preference for reform.

The draft document is available for download at [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au) but be warned at 213 pages plus appendices it is substantial. Copies are also available at the Shire's libraries.

## **Fire Break Changes**

Currently all Special Rural and Urban land exceeding 2024m<sup>2</sup> in area must have:

1. Three metre wide firebreak around all boundaries of the land
2. A twenty metre low fuel area around all buildings on the land
3. Trees on the vertical plain on the side of the firebreak must be pruned to a minimum height of 5 metres.

**Please note there is a new requirement:**

**All remaining grasses on the property are to be slashed to a height not exceeding 100mm.** If it is not practicable to slash the property, grasses may be burnt or removed by the application of a suitable herbicide by way of spraying so as to comply with the requirements of the Bush Fire Order.

## **Boyanup Townsite Strategy**

A fabulous response with 50 residents attending the Boyanup Townsite Strategy information and workshop evening facilitated by Iliya and Glen from the Shire's Town Planning team. The workshop stimulated discussion, thought and recommendations in regards to values, concerns and vision for the town.

Further opportunity for input will be provided once the preliminary recommendations incorporating the conceptual Structure Plan proposals have been prepared.

On behalf of the Planning and Development Services Division, we thank the participants and look forward to progressing this plan further with local input.

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## **Youth Only Event - May 10 2008 Dalyellup Community Centre**

**Take a Break from Your Studies and  
EscapED 7pm - 11pm**

Featuring well known local bands Elecrosatik, Thursday's Page, Next to Nothing and visiting DJ  
Tickets \$10.00 Must be 12-17yrs. Food & Refreshments available. Contact Sue for more information on 9727 0222.