



Governance Update

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Thursday 19th March 2020**, from 3.30pm. The meeting will be held at the Westonia CRC Building (Old Shire Administration Building). The meeting's agenda will be published on Council's website from 5.00pm on **Friday 13th March 2020**.

Public Question Time commences at 3:30pm and is limited to 15 minutes

for more info:  (08)90467063

 www.westonia.wa.gov.au/council-meetings



Shire Office Closure – Easter & ANZAC Period

Please note the Shire Offices and Public Library will be closed on the following Easter/ANZAC public holidays:

Good Friday – 10 April

Easter Monday – 13 April

ANZAC Day – 27 April

HARVEST BAN SMS

Call 9046 7063 to subscribe and receive SMS notification when the Shire places a 'Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban'.

*Note that DFES will issue 'Total Fire Bans' which differ to a Shire issued 'Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban'. The Shire endeavours to advise when a 'Total Fire Ban' is in place but DFES should always be contacted in the first instance.



Coronavirus (COVID-19) update – March 17

The Shire of Westonia is aware that the wider community has concerns and questions in relation to the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) – and wants to provide an update on the situation locally.

In relation to the Coronavirus, the WA Department of Health, in consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Australian Border Force, are managing the response and communication to the public.

As such, the Shire is being directed by these authorities and acting accordingly. The Shire has been supporting their activities where appropriate and have been involved in emergency management meetings with relevant stakeholders.

If you want to learn the latest information about the Coronavirus, the State and Federal Departments of Health are updating their resources on a frequent basis. For more information, visit the following links.

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

The Shire of Westonia would like to reiterate the WA Health Department's message of maintaining good hygiene, as this has been shown to prevent infection. The latest available information is:

- Events of 500 people or more are set to be cancelled from Monday (9th March 2020) onwards.
- Indoor Gathering of more than 100 to be BANNED

- ALL Overseas travel is BANNED by the Federal Government as a level 4 Alert raised for All Countries.

For an up-to-date overview of the number of confirmed cases in Western Australia, please refer to <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-current-situation-and-case-numbers#how-we-are-managing-the-outbreak>

The Shire will communicate any updates from the State and Federal Health Departments as they are received and relevant.

Current advice

- Wash hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. Dry with paper towel or hand dryer.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- Isolate yourself at home if you feel sick. If you take medication ensure you have adequate supplies.
- Phone your GP first if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- Continue healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep, and now is the time to quit smoking. Call the Quitline 137 848.
- Don't wear a face mask if you are well.
- Buy an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60 per cent alcohol.
- Get the flu shot (available April).
- Shaking hands is optional!



Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
LAURA BLACK

NEXT VISIT

Thursday 19 March 2020

Thursday 2 April 2020

9.00am—2.00 pm

Booking made through

SHIRE ADMIN on (08) 9046 7063



DR OLGA WARD

MBBS, FRACGP, GDRGP, FARGP
Procedural Surgical GP Westonia

SHIRE ADMIN on (08) 9046 7063

Consulting Dates 2020 (Monday's)

4th of May 2020

15th of June 2020

13th of July 2020

10th of August 2020

5th of October 2020

9th of November 2020

14th of December 2020



The podiatrist will be back in town on the following dates appointments are available starting at 9am

26th March 2020

Please call the Shire Office on **(08) 90467063** for more information or to make an appointment.

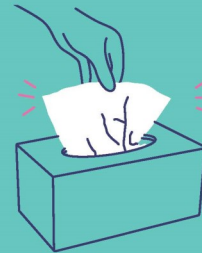
Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD.

Cough or sneeze into your arm



Use a tissue



Bin the tissue



Wash your hands



HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.

For more information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** visit health.gov.au



Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

HAVE YOU RECENTLY TRAVELLED OVERSEAS?

If you've been overseas recently, you are required to stay home and monitor your health. If you have flu-like symptoms seek medical advice. Call ahead if going to a doctor.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.

For more information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** visit health.gov.au

HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY





The Boodarockin Road project has finally been completed (minus some flood damage repairs) with the final seal finalised on the weekend. This has been both an exciting but challenging project for the works crew and associated contractors. The finished product is a real asset to the Council and community and will also benefit the remainder of gravel roads throughout the shire with 38km less grading required on this particular section of road.

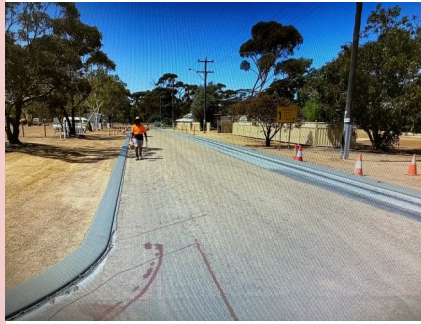
Some facts about the project

- 36.6Km
- Cost @ \$ 112,000/km
- @ 100 working days
- 2 graders, 4 x roadtrains, 2 loaders, 6 water carts, 4 x rollers, dozer and excavator.
- @ 30,000,000 litres of water
- @ 60,000 CuM of gravel
- @ 6,000T aggregate
- @ 286,725m2 of bitumen seal.
- 31 x concrete pipes
300 guide posts

MLG trucks will commence carting on this road from Thursday 19 March in single combination trucks until the road receives its appropriate RAV rating, in which time the trucks will convert to triple roadtrain combinations. All road users are encouraged to take care when driving this section of road.

Council works crew have commenced work on the Warrachuppin Road realignment with an estimated completion date of mid April. This work involves the carting of 300mm of sub-base material and an additional 150mm of gravel pavement prior to a bitumen sealing.

The maintenance grader is currently repairing roads affected by the recent storm event in the northern part of the shire.



Kerbing has been installed on sections of Pyrites, Kaolin and Jasper Streets to assist in the management of water run-off from the road surfaces.



Local Westonia families host city Medical Students.

Last week the Wheatbelt welcomed medical students from Notre Dame and Curtin University as part of an immersion program with the aim of addressing a state-wide regional doctor shortage.

Over the four days, the students immersed themselves in rural life, billeted with local families across seven Wheatbelt towns – Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Southern Cross and Westonia – to learn about the realities and daily challenges faced by regionally located families.

The Program was developed in an effort to shift student perceptions about rural medicine early in their studies. Studies show a link between early exposure to rural medicine and a willingness to practice medicine in a rural location. This program offers students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in rural medicine

and to truly understand the challenges and needs of remotely located communities.

The immersion experience included three circuits covering the entire Wheatbelt with students remaining in their respective circuits for the duration of the Program.

They visited local hospital and medical practices, holding teddy bear clinics. They even visited Jimmy’s Hut!!!

The Students were presented with an official Council tie or scarf at a thank-you function on Thursday where students then provided the locals with their thoughts of their stay and “new views” on rural medicine.

The Westonia Shire wishes to thank Dr. Olga Ward, Local Medical Patients, Ramelius Resources, and Local Billet Families .

