



Inside Ashburton

July 2020

Pilbara living huge drawcard for new Shire CEO

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In May, the Shire of Ashburton welcomed former Pilbara resident Kenneth Donohoe to the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Mr Donohoe said he is thrilled to return to the Pilbara region.

"There is something about the red earth, smell of the pindan after rain and the sheer vastness of this area that stays with you and brings you back," Mr Donohoe said.

"Since moving to Tom Price I have been astounded by the beauty of the natural environment and the tremendous regional resources that support not just the Pilbara, but Australia."

Mr Donohoe has served in local government for thirty years and brings

a wealth of knowledge to the role. He previously held executive roles in the Town of Port Hedland, the Shires of Broome and Serpentine-Jarrahdale and most recently at Whitsunday Regional Council.

Shire President Councillor Kerry White said she was delighted to welcome Mr Donohoe to the Shire.

"Kenn has a proven record of working effectively with Council and the community," Cr White said.

"I'm looking forward to working together to progress the region."

The new CEO has already begun to focus on getting a series of capital works projects off the ground.

"This has been a challenging year affecting

every Australian family," Mr Donohoe said. "As a priority, I'm working on implementing stimulus projects that will achieve Council's vision and advance the region."

Most importantly, he is keen to get to know the community.

"Those who I have already met have demonstrated great pride and passion for Ashburton," he said.

"That's something I'm looking forward to increasing and extending across the region."

This activity met Community Goal 5 of the Strategic Community Plan, Inspiring Governance.



Shire invests \$6M in local roads



With 2,655km of sealed and unsealed roads criss-crossing the region, it's a big job to maintain the Shire's vital transport links.

Earlier this year, Shire of Ashburton President Kerry White outlined a series of important road renewal programs to improve the region's roads.

Cr White said the road improvement program has made significant progress, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

"I'm really pleased our \$6M road improvement program has been able to successfully advance during these uncertain times," she said.

"We have a number of projects underway including our Ashburton Urban Roads Renewal Program."

Annually, the Shire budgets more than \$1.1M to maintain its urban road network.

Key roads receiving a reseal include Ashburton Avenue and De Grey Road in addition to a number of residential streets.

Residents will receive information prior to the commencement of works in their area on how to maintain access to their home.

Cr White said full access will be provided to all local services throughout this time and every effort will be made to minimise disruption.

"We urge all our residents to take care when travelling through town and to respect the instructions from traffic management contractors," Cr White said.

The ongoing upgrade to the Pannawonica – Millstream Road is also expected to be a

big boost to the region. More than \$2M has been invested to create a sealed road to Millstream Chichester National Park, easing travel for locals and visitors.

The Shire's \$2.2M Unsealed Rural Roads Project is expected to finish in late August. This includes upgrades to Twitchen Road, Towera Lyndon Road and Ashburton Downs – Meekatharra Road.

Residents in Tom Price are advised that resealing will commence on identified local roads later this month with Onslow roads prioritised for 2021.

This activity met Community Goal 4 of the Strategic Community Plan, Quality Services and Infrastructure.

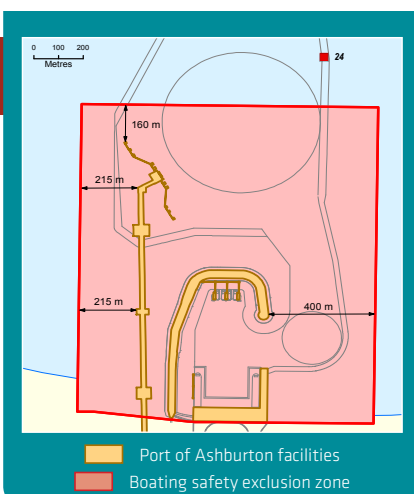


Our newest Citizen



Congratulations to our newest Australian Citizen, Jennifer Forrest, whose ceremony was conducted on 4 July 2020 in Tom Price by Cr Peter Foster.

New Australian Citizen Jennifer Forrest & Cr Peter Foster



SAFETY NOTICE TO ALL BOAT USERS

With large ships constantly entering and leaving port waters, it's up to you as a responsible recreational craft skipper to ensure you and your passengers remain safe.

You **MUST** stay well clear of the shipping channel and large ships and only cross the channel when safe to do so.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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New footpaths in Onslow enhance accessibility



Onslow residents are enjoying the benefits of a big investment in local footpaths.

The \$450,000 footpath renewal and repair program was recently completed. Shire President Kerry White said she was very pleased that the works had resolved some outstanding issues.

“There have been some important changes to key locations in town that will greatly improve accessibility and liveability for our local community,” she said.


Upgraded locations include the footpath at the Ocean View Caravan Park and along Backbeach Road, as well as critical areas on First Avenue and Second Avenue which link to the hospital entrance.

Improvements have also been made to residential streets including Third Avenue, Cameron Avenue to McRae Place and Maunsell Corner.

An additional 1.6km of footpath has been created, providing greater pedestrian access for residents

The upgrade is part of a broader \$1.1M footpath program that will be extended across the Shire in coming months.

This activity met Community Goal 4 of the Strategic Community Plan, Quality Services and Infrastructure.



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Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

COVID-19



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TISSUES**



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IF UNWELL**



**MAINTAIN SOCIAL
DISTANCING**

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shire of Ashburton
reef to range

Caring for the community during COVID-19

Council-endorsed relief package eases financial stress

In April this year, the Shire endorsed a \$1.5M series of financial support and relief measures that have eased the strain for residents impacted by COVID-19.

“As a local government, we have a responsibility to our community members during an emergency event like a health pandemic,” said Shire President Kerry White.

Measures that have lightened the load include rent relief on leases to small businesses, community groups and clubs, no increase to fees and charges for 2020/21 and the adoption of a Financial Hardship Policy.

The Shire also announced there would be no increase to rates for 2020/21. Rates notices will be deferred and issued in the first week of November with a flexible monthly payment option. Special payment arrangements for rates will also be extended to 30 June 2021.

Businesses, community groups and local sporting clubs struggling with financial hardship and loss as a result of COVID-19 are encouraged to contact the Shire to apply to write off outstanding debts incurred since 1 February 2020.

A helping hand to get ahead

At the height of COVID-19 restrictions, the Shire reached out to many local groups to offer support.

Working closely with VSswans, the Wirrpana Foundation, IGA supermarket and Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation, the Shire assisted and coordinated support to Peedamulla and Bindi Bindi communities, as well as coordinated with EPIC and Foodbank WA to offer a free online nutrition education workshop.

In Tom Price, the Shire liaised with Gumala to close off the Wakathuni community, providing signage to close roads and helping community members to get funding and return from town to land. Assistance was also provided to ensure medicines and essential goods continued to be delivered.

The Shire also worked with the Ashburton Aboriginal Cooperation and the Youth Centre to donate food to communities.

In Onslow, Chevron generously donated \$1M to the Chevron Onslow Relief Fund to enable the provision of financial support and critical health services to Onslow residents, Aboriginal communities, local businesses and the unemployed. The mining partner also encouraged Onslow businesses and residents to get involved in the Shop Local Voucher Program.

Small businesses, community groups and sporting clubs receive boost

Close to thirty local businesses have now benefitted from the Shire’s Small Business and Community Grants Fund.

The Shire established the \$250,000 fund, in addition to the \$250,000 COVID-19 Support and Relief Reserve to support small businesses, community groups and sporting clubs experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19. The fund was boosted by a generous \$1M donation by long-term community partner Rio Tinto.

Comprising a mix of in-kind support and financial contributions, close to \$350,000 has already been approved and distributed across the region.

Shire of Ashburton President Kerry White said she was pleased local businesses and groups were taking advantage of the support available.

“We are still accepting submissions and the next round of assessments will be made in late August,” Cr White said.

“I would encourage all those facing financial hardship who meet the criteria to apply.”

To apply for financial support, please visit www.ashburton.wa.gov.au/the-shire/rates/covid19-relief-application

This activity met Community Goal 1 of the Strategic Community Plan, Vibrant and Active Communities.



This activity met Community Goal 2 of the Strategic Community Plan, Economic Prosperity.



Congratulations to our Volunteers of the Month!

The Shire is delighted to recognise our hard-working Volunteers of the Month for April, May and June.

April



Andrew Price (Onslow)
St John Ambulance WA

For his tireless commitment to the St John Ambulance service. Andrew works around the clock to support the community with compassion and care.



Erina Rau (Tom Price)
Tom Price Netball Association

For her dedication to the Tom Price Netball Association. Erina is passionate about developing and furthering the skills of players in the club and volunteers her time to several sporting groups in the community.

May



Renae Coates (Onslow)
St John Ambulance WA

For her tremendous support as a St John Ambulance volunteer. Passionate about helping others, Renae makes herself available day and night to look after the community.



Nell Harris (Tom Price)
Art Hub

For volunteering her creative skills to Art Hub. Nell is a highly talented artist who has been a great help to Art Hub, putting together Kindness packs and sharing excellent ideas.

June



Eileen and Brian (Onslow)
Onslow Community Garden

For exemplary contributions to the Onslow Community Garden. Eileen and Brian ensure the garden is immaculately maintained and remains a focal point for locals and visitors. Brian is also a valued member of the Onslow Volunteer Marine Rescue.



Marama Rawiri (Tom Price)
Multiple organisations

For her tireless service to the community. Marama is an active volunteer in local sporting clubs and committees, holding valued roles as umpire, coach, treasurer, president and general all-rounder.

Our hard-working volunteers keep our communities vibrant and active. Do you know a volunteer who deserves to be recognised? Share your appreciation by nominating them for the Active Ashburton Volunteer of the Month award.

Visit www.ashburton.wa.gov.au/services/sport-recreation/active-ashburton

This activity met Community Goal 1 of the Strategic Community Plan, Vibrant and Active Communities.





Gererd Fitzgerald (Pannawonica)
*Pannawonica Sporting Club,
community Santa*

For his valuable contributions to the Pannawonica community, Gerry volunteers his time at the Pannawonica Sporting Club and local primary school and has taken on the treasured role of community Santa for 11 years.



Clinton McCabe (Paraburdoo)
St John Ambulance WA

For his excellent work with the St John Ambulance service, Clinton has a genuine drive to support, guide and care for the community.



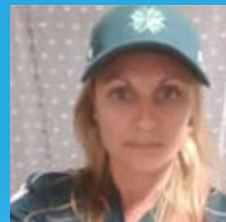
Nikki Walker (Pannawonica)
Pannawonica Playgroup

For her dedication to the Pannawonica Playgroup. As President of the playgroup for the past twelve months, Nikki has worked tirelessly to create a valued community hub for parents and children.



Stacy Rutherford (Pannawonica)
Pannawonica Swim Club

For her commitment to the Pannawonica Swim Club. Stacy is an enthusiastic and highly valued coach who works tirelessly to help others achieve their goals.



Melanie Burge (Paraburdoo)
St John Ambulance WA

For her excellent volunteer work with the St John Ambulance service. Melanie is a great supporter of the community and ran the local martial arts school for several years.



Around Ashburton: community matters

It's been a challenging time, but rest assured the Shire of Ashburton has been busier than ever progressing community projects that make a difference.

Supporting students during COVID-19

Earlier this year, we donated 17 laptops to Tom Price Senior High School. The laptops were wiped clean and installed with new software. With early COVID-19 restrictions preventing face-to-face teaching, many students were able to use the laptops to complete schoolwork from home.



Paraburdoo depot refurbishment

We are currently working with contractors to carry out a refurbishment and extension of the Paraburdoo depot lunchroom. These much-needed works will provide a more comfortable and appealing rest area for our outdoor staff.

Improving safety at local oval

You may have seen the brand-new AFL rebound nets installed at Clem Thompson Oval. The new nets will ensure footballs are kept inside the oval and away from the footpath, road and passers-by. We've also completed restoration work to soften the ground and ensure it's safer for sporting groups to use and enjoy.

Dog park unleashed

Paraburdoo's new dog exercise area was completed just in time for phase three easing of COVID-19 restrictions on 6 June 2020. This ensured community members were able to benefit immediately from this great new amenity. The dog exercise area is funded through our Community Infrastructure and Services Partnership with Rio Tinto that focuses on making the region a better place to live, work and play.

Community wellness initiative

Our community services team recently teamed up with Rio Tinto to send out wellness packs to residents in our inland towns. Packed with active gear and mindfulness activities, we hope the packs have come in handy. With our parks and green spaces open again, there's no better time to head outside and reconnect.



Planting a new vision

As part of the Greening Ashburton project, the Shire has been busy transforming our towns with new green life. Keep your eyes peeled for some of the 92 trees that have been delivered. These will be planted in Tom Price and Paraburdoo in coming months and Onslow later in the year. The Shire has also installed 3.5 kms of irrigation, purchased 130m³ of mulch and secured nearly a thousand new plants to replenish garden beds. A special thanks to all of our Town Maintenance Officers that have been busy keeping our towns looking great. We can't wait to see the trees bloom and create a dazzling leafy entrance to our towns.



New Pilbara waste management facility

Last month marked a milestone for the Shire as construction commenced on a new regional waste management facility in Onslow. The \$14M project will include facilities for green waste, construction and demolition waste and liquid waste, as well as tyre mono-cell. The Class IV facility will accept Class III and IV waste, including waste from the mining, industrial and oil and gas sectors across the wider Pilbara region.



This activity met Community Goal 1 of the Strategic Community Plan, Vibrant and Active Communities.



This activity met Community Goal 2 of the Strategic Community Plan, Economic Prosperity.



This activity met Community Goal 3 of the Strategic Community Plan, Unique Heritage and Environment.



This activity met Community Goal 4 of the Strategic Community Plan, Quality Services and Infrastructure.



This activity met Community Goal 5 of the Strategic Community Plan, Inspiring Governance.



Ultimate reef to range experience

With pristine blue oceans and spectacular red earth ranges, northern Western Australia (WA) offers an unparalleled escape.

Visitors who love adventure can climb the four tallest mountains in WA or visit Ashburton's two largest towns that offer unique experiences for families, couples and solo adventurers.



Onslow

Onslow offers the ultimate coastal getaway, perfect for those who love the great outdoors. Warmer in the summer months, the best time to visit is April to September.

Featuring a handful of popular fishing spots, Onslow is best known as the gateway to the Mackerel Islands, an outstanding adventure playground.

The Islands operate fishing charters and whale watching charters in season. You can also hire plaka boats, kayaks, SUP boards, snorkel sets and fishing gear. Admire the kaleidoscope of colourful fish, crabs and stingrays among the coral reefs or reel in the catch of your life from the Pilbara's fishiest waters.



Tom Price

Tom Price is WA's highest town at 747 meters above sea level and is located on the edge of the Hamersley Ranges. The picturesque town is an ideal base for those wishing to explore the remarkable Karijini National Park.

The ranges and gorges within Karijini are some of the oldest landforms in the world. Walking trails take visitors through the heart of the gorges, winding past waterfalls and rock pools, surrounded by

lush greenery and rich red rock faces.

While it's the second largest national park in the State, Karijini's stunning scenery is incredibly accessible. In some locations, you can walk 50 metres to a breathtaking 100-metre canyon and waterfall. Day trips run regularly out of Tom Price to Karijini during peak season.

For more information, contact the Tom Price Visitor Centre on (08) 9188 5488, email visitorcentre@ashburton.wa.gov.au or visit www.tomprice.org.au.

This activity met Community Goal 1 of the Strategic Community Plan, Vibrant and Active Communities.



This activity met Community Goal 2 of the Strategic Community Plan, Economic Prosperity.



Upcoming Events



July 2020

Date	Event	Location
JULY		
Thursday 2 July	Onslow Keepers	Onslow
Monday 6 – Friday 17 July	School holiday program	All towns
Monday 6 July @ 6:55pm Tuesday 7 July @ 7:53pm Wednesday 8 July @ 8:49pm	Staircase to the Moon	Onslow
Friday 31 July	Teddy Bears Picnic	Tom Price, Paraburdoo
Begins Friday 31 July (runs for 6 weeks)	The Coffee Club	Pannawonica
Friday 31 July	Friday Movie Night ('Sonic the Hedgehog')	Onslow
AUGUST		
Saturday 1 – Friday 14 August	'The good, the bad and the ugly' photo competition	All towns
Tuesday 4 August @ 6:38pm Wednesday 5 August @ 7:32pm Thursday 6 August @ 8:24pm	Staircase to the Moon	Onslow
Thursday 6 August	Onslow Keepers	Onslow

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