

OCTOBER 2023

SHIRE OF MUNDARING

COMMUNITY UPDATE



FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

We enter the vibrant and colourful season of Kambarang signifying growth and renewal as blossoms and delicate flowers emerge.

The Shire also embarks on a new beginning with CEO Jason Whiteaker commencing his tenure on Monday 2 October. I wish Jason every success in his role and future endeavours.

The hot, dry months ahead brings an important reminder for us to prepare for the threat of bushfire. Please remember that as of Sunday 1 October, we have entered the Restricted Burning Period. Find further bushfire and fire management information on the safety and rangers page of our [website](#).

Residents are reminded that cat and dog registrations run from Wednesday 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024. If you need to renew your pet registration or if you have recently welcomed a new pet into your home, registration is easy via our website mundaring.wa.gov.au/cat-and-dog-registration.

You may have learned of my decision not to seek re-election in my role as Shire President in the upcoming local government elections.

When I nominated for Council at this time of year, eight years ago, the Shire had assumed six per cent increases for 10 years in order to meet its plans and obligations. We had, at that time, just tripled our debt and I didn't believe that this was sustainable from a ratepayer point of view. So I nominated for Council and was lucky enough to be elected by the people of the South Ward.

Move forward to today, where Council has recently passed our latest budget, and I'm pleased to say that for a second year in a row, we have kept rate increases less than inflation and wage increases. We have reduced debt further, created no new loans and increased our savings as we have every year for the past eight years. Importantly, we move forward with a 10 year budget that forecasts low levels of rate increases, in line with inflation and wage growth, significantly lower debt and significantly higher savings.

From eight years ago, that means around a \$400 a year saving for every household in the Shire than if we had kept our original budget plan. I am very proud of that achievement.

The Shire continues to invest in our environment and financial sustainability. For this financial year, almost \$2M will be invested in converting streetlights to LED's resulting in a much lower carbon footprint for the Shire and a rapid payback period due to the significantly lower electricity costs incurred from the new lights.

A similar amount will be spent on the FOGO roll out program which aims to lessen landfill waste and provide savings from the ever increasing costs of landfill.

For me, I feel I have achieved what I set out to do and I believe it is time to step aside, allow new ideas of others to build on the great work we have done and to continue to make our community a great place to live and work. I thank everyone for their support during my time on Council and I wish you all the best. I look forward to still seeing you out and about in our wonderful community – the Shire of Mundaring.

James Martin
Shire President



Local Government Elections

Eligible residents should now have received their postal voting package. Although not mandatory, we strongly encourage you to vote in this election. Please follow the instructions included in the package and ensure you return your package before 6pm on polling day.

If you don't think your voting package can be returned by post in time, you can deliver it to the Shire Administration Building. Alternatively, you can return your package to the Shire Administration Office between 8am and 6pm on polling day - **Saturday 21 October**.

Important reminder: The blue CRC entry passes issued with the 2022-23 Rates Notice do not expire and will continue to be accepted at the Community Recycling Centres. Visit our service portal via my.mundaring.wa.gov.au or call us on (08) 9290 6666 if you've misplaced or damaged your pass.

WHAT'S ON



1 Ordinary Council Meeting

The October Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 10 October** at 6.30pm at the Shire Administration Building. The Agenda is available on the website, Administration Building or at our libraries. Visit the Shire's website mundaring.wa.gov.au/council-livestreams-and-recordings to view the meeting.

2 Rock-n-Roll with the Active Ageing Network

Hub of the Hills, **Thursday 19 October**, 1pm to 4pm. Free event. Dress up to a rock-n-roll theme and put on your dancing shoes for a fun afternoon including music, games and prizes. Afternoon tea is included. **Further information or RSVP:** (08) 9290 6683.

3 The Night Sky with Arthur Harvey Boya Community Centre, **Monday 23 October**, 6.30pm to 7.45pm

Arthur Harvey presents an introductory talk on the motion of the Earth, Moon and planets. Booking is essential for this free event via the [Eventbrite](#) website.

4 Dinner at the Cathay with Maureen de la Harpe

Boya Community Centre, **Monday 31 October**, 10.30am to 11am. Shanghai-born author Maureen de la Harpe was eight months old when the city was attacked by Japanese forces. Through the lives of her ancestors and her own childhood experiences, she has woven the story of foreign settlement in the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai. Booking is essential for this **free** event via the [Eventbrite](#) website.

5 Relics, Wrecks and Renos photography competition

Proudly presented by Mundaring Hills Historical Society and Shire of Mundaring Libraries, win a \$100 voucher in each of the following categories:

Relics: Historical buildings or structures

Wrecks: Damaged or unrepairable buildings or structures

Renos: In-use and renovated historical buildings, monuments or structures.

Visit our web page mundaring.wa.gov.au/relics-wrecks-renos-photocompetition for further information and to enter.

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