

# Community Newsletter

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## Acting CEO Chat

Firstly I would like to extend the very best wishes and many blessings to everyone for the 2021 new year – here's hoping that the COVID-related challenges that raised their ugly heads during 2020 dissipate somewhat for all of us, and that more stability and certainty prevails right across the globe.

Congratulations to our three newest Australian Citizens who chose Australia Day to public declare of their commitment to Australia is the final step to becoming Australian Citizens.



Above: President Len Armstong officiated the ceremony for Lydia Cody, Christopher Cody and Jennifer Roche.

Shire President Cr Len Armstrong was the Presiding Officer and conducted the ceremony as prescribed in the Australian Citizenship Act 1997 and the Australian Citizenship Regulations 2016, under the authority of the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon David Coleman MP.

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2021 Australia Day Citizenship Awards for the Shire of Lake Grace:

Lake King Citizen of the Year Award  
**Courtney Roberts**

Lake Grace Citizen of the Year Award  
**Brenden Desmond**

Newdegate Young Citizen of the Year Award  
**Liam Thompson**

Lake Grace Senior Citizen of the Year Award  
**Rosemary Bywaters**

Lake Grace Active Citizenship Award for a Community Group or Event

**The Fight for MND Big Freeze Event 2020**

Lake King Active Citizenship Award for a Community Group or Event

**Community of Lake King**

The Shire of Lake Grace team is back at it after the break over the Christmas and New Year period; I extend my sincere thanks to the few staff members who worked or were rostered on in caretaker mode during this time to

keep everything ticking over smoothly. 2021 is already shaping up as an extremely busy one for us with many infrastructure, community and corporate development projects on the go. The Shire was fortunate enough to receive some significant funding from the Australian Government last year via the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure and Drought Communities Programs which has enabled us to carry out essential repair and upgrade works to local football and hockey fields, recreation centres/sports complexes and halls as well as to plan and invest in new recreational facilities and other infrastructure across our district.

All of these projects have completion and reporting deadlines for June and December of this year, so we are working diligently to get them all underway and then finalised at the earliest opportunity.

The annual financial audit was completed and signed off in December by the Office of the Auditor General with a clear opinion and no major issues raised, which is an excellent result once again. Council has accepted the Annual Report and set down the date for the AGM of Electors on Wednesday 10th February at the Lake Grace Sports Pavilion, commencing at 6.30pm. Copies of the Annual Report are available at the Shire Office, local libraries or online via the Shire website.

Having completed the audit and the organisational review of the Shire staffing structure, our attention now turns to other statutory reporting matters such as the mid-year budget review, annual compliance audit return and the three-yearly Regulation 17 review of risk management, internal control systems and legislative compliance. A great proportion of this work has already commenced or been completed, but there is still more than enough to keep the Executive and Corporate Services teams very, very busy during February prior to the reports being submitted to the Audit & Risk Committee and Council!

There are a number of community events rapidly approaching as well that we are keenly looking forward to have a couple of performance acts coming to the Shire in February including the Splash Test Dummies coming to Varley and Lake Grace. Fits of Laughter coming to Lake Grace so we encourage everyone to come along and enjoy these shows.

CEO Alan George will have returned from leave for the next edition of Community News, so thanks for reading my column contribution this time around, and I look forward to catching up with you all again soon.

*Chris Paget*

Acting Chief Executive Officer

# Community Emergency Service News



The Shire of Lake Grace will enter the Restricted Burning period at midnight on Sunday 31 January. From Monday 1 February until 15 March 2021 you will need a permit to light a fire in the open air.

Permits are free, but you must make sure that there is no danger of the fire escaping and that you comply with all the conditions that are listed on the permit.

You must also check the fire danger rating for the district for the day you are planning to burn. If the forecast fire danger rating is very high, extreme, or catastrophic, your permit is automatically suspended.

The Shire of Lake Grace may also issue an order to revoke all burning permits for a particular day, or order any fires already alight to be extinguished, so check the Shire's website prior to burning.

You must also not light a fire, even if you have been issued with a permit, on a day where a Total Fire Ban has been declared, or if the Shire has declared that fires are not to be lit.

To apply for a permit, please contact the Fire Control Officer for your area, who will decide if it is safe for a fire to be lit and may issue you with a permit (FCO contact details are available on the Shire's website at

[www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au](http://www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au)

Please remember that FCOs are volunteers and may not be available at short notice, so make sure that you plan well ahead.

If you light a fire in the open air without a permit during the restricted burning times, you may face penalties of up to \$4,500 for a first offence and \$10,000 for a second or subsequent offence.

*Suzan Lees*

Community Emergency Services Manager

**Restricted Burning period starts midnight  
on Sunday 31 January.  
From Monday 1 February until  
Monday 15 March 2021**



**Varley  
Saturday 13 February 2021  
at 6 PM – 7 PM**

**Lake Grace  
Tuesday 16 February 2021  
at 6PM—7PM**



**RAVE  
ABOUT  
ARTS**

SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

## PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS



Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Lake Grace is to be held on Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Lake Grace Sports Pavilion, Lake Grace.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the contents of the Annual Report for 2019/2020 along with other general business. Each elector is entitled to one vote; however, voting is optional.

Members of the public who wish to have questions answered at this meeting may do so by lodging written submissions with the Chief Executive Officer at the Shire of Lake Grace, P O Box 50, Lake Grace WA 6353 no later than Friday 29 January 2021.

A copy of the Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 will be available prior to the meeting and may be obtained through our website [www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au](http://www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au) or by phoning 9890-2500 or by collecting from the Shire office at 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace.

**Alan George  
Chief Executive Officer**

## Ordinary Council Meeting

An Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 February 2021 from 3:30pm at the Council Chambers, Administration Building. The Agenda will be available on [www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au](http://www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au)

*Everyone Welcome*

A minimum of 15 minutes is set aside for public question time, giving members of the public an opportunity to ask questions relating to Shire activities.

# Community Infrastructure News

Just like that, January is nearing an end for another year. I hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Over the break we had four (4) 250,000L tanks delivered ready to be installed at Lake Grace Recreation Centre, Newdegate Recreation Centre, Lake Bidy Community Dam and Lake King airstrip, these tanks are installed with the purpose of being an additional water supply for the communities. Contractors have re-sealed a section of Newdegate/Pingrup Road and North Lake Grace/Karlgarin Road, thank you to the contractors for doing an excellent and time effective reseal to limit delays to our community and travellers.

The new Chief Executive Officer's house in Quondong Court has now come to its completion and looking fantastic, a few delays with materials as expected but only a month behind schedule. Thank you to Modular WA for an easy first experience with the company.

The shire has also been successful in gaining a RADS grant that will be used for upgrading the Lake Grace airstrip runway lighting.

Our staff and contractors have carried out the following works:

## Roadworks

The Lake Grace Maintenance Grader has carried out grading on:

- Argent Road
- Bidy Camm Road
- Burngup Road
- Burngup South Road
- Geliard Road
- Goddard Road
- Gordon Road
- MacNamara Road

The Newdegate Maintenance Grader has carried out grading on:

- Contractor has not submitted timesheet

The Lake King and Varley Maintenance Grader has carried out grading on:

- Contractor has not submitted timesheet

## Parks & Gardens

The Parks and Gardens Crew have carried out the following work:

### Lake Grace

- Mowing Visitor Centre, RSL, Railway Station, Village Hall and Griffiths Street lawns
- Retic repairs to Village Hall and Railway Station
- Weeding oval and whipper snip town site
- Clearing of fallen leaves around town site

## Newdegate

- Push up and dig hole at the tip
- Tidy skate park lawns and gardens
- Trim garden beds Witham Street
- De-head roses at Pioneer Park

## Buildings

The Building Maintenance Crew have carried out the following work:

- Tie down Lake Grace Airstrip shed
- Lake King Recreation ground maintenance
- Lake King public toilets
- Lake Grace Playgroup maintenance
- Pull down Christmas lights
- Newdegate Sports Ground maintenance, changing globes and repairs to hockey toilet door
- RSL front door repairs and change light globes

*Craig Elefsen*

Manager Infrastructure Services

## Seen a faulty streetlight?

Western Power has recently automated streetlight fault reporting, making it easier to report faulty streetlights.

If a streetlight doesn't turn on, turn off or flickers, let Western Power know using the streetlight reporting tool at:

<https://westernpower.com.au/faults-outages/report-a-faulty-streetlight/> or call on 13 10 87

## Disposing of Caltrop Plants

Please do not put into your rubbish bin. To dispose of any removed caltrop plants please:

- place them into a marked and sealed plastic bag and keep them until winter when they can be safely burnt
- or
- take them to the Shire Depot at Absolon Street Lake Grace, where there is a specially marked caltrop wheelie bin facility located just outside the main depot gate.

or

- Newdegate: place them in one of the two blue bins specially marked **Caltrop** on Lot 12 May St (vacant block) Newdegate.

## Extended Power Outage over Summer

The State Government's \$80 extended outage payment, which is a one-off payment of \$80 per any unplanned outage that lasts longer than 12 consecutive hours.

Go to: <https://westernpower.com.au/faults-outages/make-a-claim/extended-outage/>

# Community Info

## Office Open Hours

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Friday  
8.30am - 4.30pm  
Thursday 8.30am - 4.00pm

Staff can be contacted by phone between 8am - 5pm

## Transport and Licensing

All licensing payments are to be made in person at the Shire of Lake Grace Administration office,  
1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 8.30am - 4.15pm  
Thursday and Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

As an agency, we process the majority of transactions including: renewals, transfers, number plate orders, boat registration renewals and new licence applications. With every transaction we perform, we try to offer the best service possible.

We do ask all licensing customers to be considerate, even though we are aware of people being 'locals' it does not exempt us from following the rules set by the Department of Transport.

## Driving Assessor

The Practical Driving Assessor (PDA) will be at the Shire of Lake Grace Office on:

**Friday 5 February 2021**

**Friday 5 March 2021 - to be confirmed**

Bookings are essential for all Practical Driver's Licence Assessments and we advise booking in advance as there is often a waiting list.

All bookings to be made at the Shire office on 9890 2500 until further notice.

Lake Grace has one assessment day each month held on the first Friday of the month.

For more information go to: [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au).

## Libraries

**Lake Grace Public Library** School Place Absolon St  
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm  
Closed for lunch 12.30 - 1pm

**Newdegate Public Library** Collier St  
Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Closed for lunch 12noon - 1pm  
Friday 9am - 2pm

**Lake King Library** Newdegate/Ravensthorpe Rd  
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am - 3.30pm

## Town Planner

Planning Officer, David Johnston and Building Surveyor, Gary Bruhn can be contacted through the Shire Office on 9890 2500 or email [shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au).

## Environmental Health

The Shire's Environmental Health Officer, Brendon Gerrard. Can be contacted via the Shire on 9890 2500 or email [shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au).

## Tip Times

### Lake Grace

Monday & Wednesday 9am - 2pm  
Saturday & Sunday 9am - 4pm

### Newdegate

Wednesday 9am - 1pm  
Saturday 9am - 1pm

### Lake King and Varley

Open every day

## Recycling Services

Household Waste Collection is a weekly service and collected each Tuesday for Lake Grace, Newdegate, Lake King & Varley.

**Recycling** is a fortnightly service and alternates between Lake Grace and Newdegate. See below for the upcoming recycling collection dates.

Lake Grace	Newdegate
Tuesday 22 December	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday January	Tuesday January

**Please Note:** There is no kerbside recycling collection service in Lake King or Varley.

The recycling bins are collected by Warren Blackwood Waste and transported to a recycling facility. If items which are not recyclable are found the content can't be recycled and the load will be directed to the landfill.

If an item is covered in food, it is not recyclable. Food is one of the worst contaminators in the recycling process. By using the yellow top recycling bin correctly you are contributing, in a combined community effort, to reduce the amount of rubbish that is directed to landfill facilities each year.

For more information on Waste Management visit the Shire's website [www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au](http://www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au).



Check out our Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/shireoflakegrace](https://www.facebook.com/shireoflakegrace)



Check out our website  
[www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au](http://www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au)



**Lake Grace Community Citizen of the Year Award  
Brenden Desmond**

**Nominated by: Lake Grace-Pingrup Football Club  
Committee**

Brenden has most recently been the Main Coordinator of the Big Freeze Fundraising Event, held in Lake Grace for the second time, in 2020. The two Lake Grace events have raised in excess of \$120,000 for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research. A fantastic effort for our community, with Brenden driving the team of helpers from all the winter sports clubs and the wider community.

Brenden Desmond or "Big Red" as he is so well known at the club has been a tireless and integral member of the club from the age of 12 when he started marking the ovals with his Dad. He was always checking the hot water systems for all home games, especially while the old change rooms were in use, couldn't let the opposition have cold showers!

Brenden was awarded Life Membership of the Lake Grace-Pingrup Football Club at the 2020 Winter Sports Windup for his outstanding involvement in the football club since he began playing.

His many achievements have been well deserved and accepted with great humility, Four Club Person of the Year Awards 2003, 2009, 2010 and 2015, the first award won as a sixteen-year old! Brenden was a popular (and possibly one of the youngest) hands on President for 2017 and 2018 and has always been a very efficient, effective and valued committee member, a Social Club Committee member from 2008 until the present,

Committee Member from 2008-2015 and again from 2018-2020.

In 2010 when he was unable to play due to injury he coached the Reserves side and organised his physio appointments so he could bring home the younger Lake Grace players from Narrogin each week. Consideration of how to help is first always for him.

Other positions he has held for the Football Club include Association Delegate for the OFA 2016-2019, Team Manager and Liaison Officer for visiting teams for the Great Southern Colts Carnival when held in Lake Grace. Brenden is also a very active and valued member of the Lake Grace Volunteer Fire Brigade. He has been a member since 2015 and the Breathing Apparatus Officer for two years. He gladly volunteers his time to attend all incidents that the Fire Brigade attends.

Brenden's time and effort for the local football club has been greatly appreciated and admired by many over the years and Luke Bairstow spoke of Brenden being the GLUE in the club. Brenden often tells how he just loves the Club and seeing his mates have fun on and off the field. He has enjoyed seeing the young players develop or return to the club after going away to school. He does what he does for the love of his Club and Community.

**Lake King Community Citizen of the Year Award  
Courtney Roberts**

Courtney volunteers an enormous amount of time to the Lake King community. She is actively involved in the Lakes Winter Sport Association every year, as hockey coach to participating children, and also organises catering for our home games.

She is also on the fundraising committee for our P&C and donates a massive amount of time to this role and co-ordinating events to raise money for the Lake King Primary School. Courtney also volunteers to run Hot Shots every year, to provide tennis lessons to the community children at the Holt Rock Tennis Club.

Courtney is always the first person to put her hand up and volunteer in our community, she is a lovely and polite person, and is very humble when praised for her efforts.

Courtney actively enhances community life by volunteering her time to ensure that local community children have access to and support with sport, through co-ordination of the Hot Shots tennis program, and coaching the winter sports children's teams. Without her volunteering her time, Hot Shots would unlikely to have been implemented and ongoing.

Courtney's selfless giving of so much of her time to support to all community events, and particularly those that are organised to raise money for our school, ensures that events can go ahead and be run smoothly for all community members to enjoy. She is a very motivated community member, and is a great asset to our town.

**Lake Grace Senior Community Citizen of the Year Award— Rosemary Bywaters**

**Nominated by: Lake Grace Development Association**

Rosemary Bywaters is nominated by the Lake Grace Development Association for her dedication to voluntarily helping many of the seniors of Lake Grace.

Rosemary makes herself available to assist in many ways the more dependent and frail members of the community. She has often provided transport for people to senior's gatherings in and around the town, though possibly less in 2020 than in previous years due to COVID-19!

Rosemary was involved with the welfare checking system put in place for vulnerable people of Lake Grace during the early stages of the pandemic. Rosemary is a regular volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels.

She is an active member of the Lake Grace & Districts seniors' group that arranges events and outings.

**Newdegate Citizen of the Year, Youth  
Liam Thompson - nominated by Claire Walter**

Over the past 4 years Liam who is a high achieving autistic young man has been a valued member of the Newdegate community. During this time he has made himself available in many different areas of our community as a volunteer. Some of his volunteer roles have been:

*Continued over...*



#### Newdegate Field Day

- putting up the flags and signs
- painting site identification discs
- participating at busy bees before and after the event
- serving donuts every day at the event
- putting out chairs and other equipment
- packing up and tidying up after the event.
- Townsite
- always picking up rubbish and straightening up road signs
- helped oil wooden structures in the playground
- raked and pruned the perimeter of the local church to make it safe for the summer
- fire proofed around the CWA building by clearing, weeding and raking.
- weed around gravesites at the cemetery and picked up rubbish.

School— painted and repaired playground equipment, general garden maintenance including raking weeding and sweeping the courts and pathways and helped get the local swimming pool ready for opening.

Re-organised all the school library books into sections and alphabetic order. Does a weekly stocktake at the local Nutrien business. Sorts, weighs and packs eggs weekly at Kennedy's Egg Farm. Restocks the shelves at the Newdegate Cafe and General Store weekly.

During this time, he has improved in his ability to interact with strangers and has become a strong ambassador for our community. Liam's attributes include friendliness, he is non-judgmental, caring and helpful community member. Although he finds some tasks challenging he still pushing himself to make sure he does the best for the town.

#### **Lake Grace Active Citizenship Award for a Community Group or Event**

##### **The Fight for MND Big Freeze Event 2020**

The fight for MND Big Freeze Event 2020 was hosted by Lake Grace - Pingrup Football Club in collaboration with Boxwood Hills Football Club. This annual event started back in 2017 with community members in both towns being diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and unfortunately losing their battle. It was decided to do something to show our support and help raise money for important research through Fight MND, by hosting our own big freeze event which involved local people going down a slide off the back of a ute into a pool of icy cold water. A giant auction after the local game of football that first year raised \$45,000. Many sponsors from both communities donated to the giant auction.

Each year since with the same idea the event has grown bigger and better with the slides getting bigger and colder and the amount of money raised getting higher and higher. The event now has a reputation in the region as a big event for everyone to be a part of with some ex-AFL players willing to play and go down the big freeze slide. All the teams from Football, Hockey and Netball including the Juniors wore the Big Freeze socks during their games. It is

truly inspirational to see the support from everyone involved.

In 2020 the Big Freeze event was even more challenging due to Covid-19 and the uncertainty of the winter sports season. With anticipation the season might go ahead the Lake Grace-Pingrup Football Club bought a 6metre inflatable slide. When the event was deemed able to proceed, we were overwhelmed with support from the generosity of the two communities.

The event has become bigger and better each year so in 2020 with all the donations and auction items from all local business and other local community groups, including paintings from the students of Lake Grace District High School, a total of over 60 auction items was available on the day.

Matt Priddis, West Coast Eagles Brownlow Medallist come down to Lake Grace to be involved in the day. The event raised \$13,000 before the auction got under way. After the auction and including the merchandise sold the tally was up to \$65,000. Since its inception the big freeze events in Lake Grace and Boxwood have raised \$45,000 in 2017, \$56,000 in 2018, \$73,000 in 2019 and in 2020 the event raised \$65,000 - in total both communities have raised over \$239,000 for Fight MND.

#### **Lake King Community Active Citizenship of the Year Award Community of Lake King - nominated by Lake King Progress Association.**

We would like to nominate the entire Lake King Community for their combined actions in fighting the fire which was started by lightning February 6th 2020. Over the following week the Lake King Community which grew to include neighbouring Varley, Holt Rock, Mount Madden and North Ravensthorpe volunteers battled an unpredictable once in a lifetime event which burnt 250,000 ha of land.

The 2020 Bush Fire was a threat to homes and lives. Managed by DFES and Lake Grace Shire the whole community joined together in its efforts to control, contain and minimize the losses.

It is impossible to name and detail the individual efforts but needless to say the Fire Control Officers and the Fire Volunteers played a major role. They were supported by the Lake King Tavern, local businesses, family and friends who all volunteered time, donated food, prepared meals provided beds, accommodation and support for everyone involved.

The community had a casual social gathering with drinks and food at the Lake King Pavilion after the event to join together and thank all involved. Official recognition in the form of an Active Citizenship Award will give a permanent and lasting reminder of what a small community can achieve when it works together to fight adversity.