

## What's Happening

In the Shire of Broome?

### New volunteer podcast



A new podcast, *Better Together - Volunteer Tales*, was launched during National Volunteer Week aimed at acknowledging our local volunteers.

The collaboration between Broome CIRCLE, the Shire of Broome and Radio Goolarri launched last week, with the series initially publishing a new daily episode highlighting the experience of local volunteers.

The series will continue until November, with stories told from a range of community and sporting organisation volunteers.

Broome CIRCLE volunteer coordinator Cate Warne said the podcasts provided a light-hearted look at volunteering and that she hoped the anecdotes would serve to encourage greater volunteering in the community.

Shire of Broome president Harold Tracey said the culture of volunteering in Broome was extremely healthy.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of Broome - a big thank you from the Shire for all you do for our community," he said.

To listen to the first episode of the *Better Together - Volunteer Tales* podcast, visit <https://soundcloud.com/goolarri-media>.

### Shire of Broome 2022/23 Rates

Council considers how much it needs to raise in rates when preparing the annual budget for the coming financial year. The total amount of money to be raised in rates is divided by the total value of all rateable properties within the Shire, and the resulting figure is called the 'rate in the dollar' (RID).

The formula for calculating the rates for an individual property is the property valuation multiplied by the rate in the dollar set by Council.

The Shire of Broome imposes differential rates, which are simply a different rate in the dollar for different categories of rateable land, such as GRV Residential, GRV Vacant and UV Rural. The differential rates to be imposed and objectives and reasons are currently advertised, and written submissions from electors and ratepayers on the proposed rates are invited for 21 days, to 6 June 2022.

Differential rates help to distribute the burden across all rateable properties, depending on each property's value in relation to all other rateable property values in the Shire.

The State's Valuer General sets the values used to calculate individual rates according to the Gross Rental Value (GRV) a property could raise if rented, or unimproved values (UV) for properties outside of the built-up area.

Properties are revalued every three years, and new valuations will apply to all properties within the Shire of Broome from 1 July 2022. Property owners can appeal the valuation on the rates notice once it is issued.

GRV property valuations have increased on average 26% for the coming financial year, but this doesn't mean your rates will increase by 26%. The proposed RID for each rating category reduces this impact so that the total rate revenue Council collects is as per the annual budget.

Depending on the change in valuation multiplied by the new rate in the dollar, some property rates may increase, remain consistent with prior years, or even decrease.

## New Broome arts space thanks to Shire facility decision



The Shire of Broome has provided a major boost to the local creative scene, with a new arts space created for a community group at no cost.

The old Scouts Hall property at 7 Orr Street is currently empty, with the Shire undertaking an Expression of Interest process earlier this year to call for community submissions for use of the facility.

At the April 2022 Shire Council Meeting, Kimberley Arts Network (KAN) were selected as the preferred candidate for the lease of the space.

Following the Council decision and the final Ministerial approval of the lease terms, the Shire has entered into a peppercorn rent lease of \$1 per annum with KAN for a period of five years.

This decision aligns with the Shire's Strategic Community Plan to offer affordable services and initiatives to satisfy community needs, as well as accessible and safe community spaces.

KAN is a not-for-profit Broome organisation that is dedicated to promoting, supporting, and increasing opportunities for artists, art organisations and craftspeople across the Kimberley region.

Shire of Broome president Harold Tracey said supporting the arts sector was a priority.

"The Shire continues to invest in the arts and culture sector in Broome and I'm excited to see what the future holds for KAN," he said.

"The fact that the Shire can help a not-for-profit group to turn a vacant building into a community resource is a fantastic outcome for all involved."

KAN chairperson Chris Maher said the group planned to host art classes, ceramics groups, rehearsing performers, training workshops and activities that bring Broome's creative community together

"KAN is thrilled to be given to opportunity to play our role in developing a vibrant local community space in that part of Broome," he said.

KAN secretary Clancy McDowell thanked the Shire, calling the lease award a 'game changer'.

"We know there are artists, community groups and performers looking for a working space, and up until now there has been nowhere that can support varied arts activity," she said.

KAN were also a successful recipient in the Shire's Events Development Funding program, recently receiving an \$11,035 grant to deliver the Indigenous Community Festival Participation Program in 2023.

## Shire advocates to improve access and inclusion in Broome

The Shire of Broome is delighted by a recent State Government announcement allocating additional funding to accessible transport options in regional WA.

WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti recently announced the State Government's intention to invest \$1.5 million into the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Taxi Service Grant Scheme.

The Scheme provides financial support to encourage the creation of WAV taxi services in regional WA and can cover the cost of installing wheelchair accessible equipment like electric-hydraulic ramps.

Grants of up to \$65,000 are available to support the establishment of new WAV taxi services in towns where none exist, which is the current situation in Broome.

Over the last 12 months, Shire of Broome representatives have highlighted the issue to the

Department of Transport and Minister Saffioti, and requested assistance.

Shire of Broome president Harold Tracey said the Scheme was a positive opportunity to provide accessible transport options for all.

"I'd like to thank the State Government, especially Minister Saffioti, for taking on board the Shire's input and allocating this essential funding," he said.

"The fact that Broome does not currently have WAV taxi services is a situation that impacts on the lives of many community members and visitors - and not one that is in the spirit of our town.

"I'd encourage local taxi operators in Broome to jump on this fantastic opportunity, with the Shire happy to assist in funding applications if required.

"We want to ensure Broome is a welcoming, accessible and inclusive place for everyone."