



## MAYORAL COLUMN

Welcome to the Wanneroo Link, our fortnightly communication with City residents.

### Mitchell Freeway extension

The extension of the Mitchell Freeway is an issue very close to my heart and I am pleased that Main Roads are expected to make an announcement that the extension from Burns Beach to Hester Avenue will be brought forward to commence in early 2016.

However, given the significant negative impact this will have, in relation to traffic congestion on Hester Avenue, I have written to the Premier requesting that the freeway project be extended further north to Romeo Road.

This is in recognition of the significant growth in the coastal corridor in the suburbs north of Jindalee and Butler. Next year, this area is forecast to have a population of more than 17,000 - an increase of more than 10,000 people over a five year period - with a forecast population of around 33,200 by 2021.

I trust that the State Government will recognise that we urgently need this freeway extension in Western Australia's fastest growing area.

### 2015/16 Budget

The City's 2015/16 budget process is well underway. Just as households in the community continue to feel the squeeze on their finances, the City also needs to find ways to balance our budget in the face of reduced funding, increasing costs and community requests for new services and facilities. The prioritisation of our spending is vital.

We will examine all options, including drawing down our savings and increasing our borrowings to help us continue providing the services and infrastructure our growing community needs and expects.

### Butler Falcons

I have a great appreciation of community sporting groups and am particularly delighted to be the mentor (and #1 ticket holder) of the Butler Falcons all female AFL team. The 20 girl squad, made up of refugees from Mauritius, Sudan and Uganda, formed in 2013.

Since that time, I have watched the team grow in confidence and ability... they are a remarkable group of young women, both on and off the field and I am extremely proud of their achievements.

### Australian LGA

Recently, I was delighted to be appointed as one of two Western Australian directors on the board of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). ALGA is the national voice of local government, representing 560 councils across Australia. In my new role I will be advocating for WA's 139 councils and communities.

### Art Awards call for entries

There is still time for budding artists to enter the City of Wanneroo's Art Awards. Entries close 4pm Wednesday 25 March and accepted submissions will be displayed in the Wanneroo Cultural Centre from 16 May to 13 June. Access the online entry form at [wanneroo.wa.gov.au/artawardsentryform](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au/artawardsentryform)

Mayor Tracey Roberts JP



## Save water and beautify your home

The City of Wanneroo Council has unanimously agreed to provide residents with free mulch to reduce household water use, as part of a community water saving initiative. The free mulch program will help you save water while providing added benefits to your home and garden.

City of Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts said the City was committed to reducing its water consumption and the input of each and every resident would contribute to this goal.

"We live in a rapidly growing community and it is imperative that the City provides residents with options to help them reduce their water use," Mayor Roberts said.

"Saving our precious water resources is everyone's responsibility and as a Council, we are committed to enabling our residents to do this through the provision of free mulch for their gardens."

The free mulch program will run from March 2015 to June 2016, with the possibility of two one year extensions. Free mulch will be provided to City of Wanneroo ratepayers, as well as City of Joondalup ratepayers and for City projects and non-profit organisations.

Previously this mulch has been provided free to City of Wanneroo and Joondalup residents

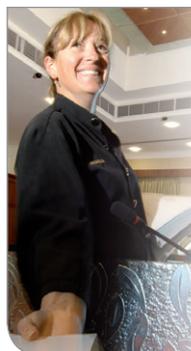
with the redemption of a mulch voucher from their rates notices, with additional trailer loads incurring a fee. Effective immediately, there will now be no limitation on non-commercial loads taken by 6x4 trailers.

The program is designed to assist residents to reduce their garden water usage and allows commercial businesses to apply for additional excess mulch - subject to compliance and licensing requirements.

The Wangara Recycling Centre is located at 70 Motivation Drive, Wangara and is open from 8am-4.45pm on weekends and public holidays.

### THE BENEFITS OF MULCHING

- Coarse, chunky mulch with irregular particle size, applied 5-10cm thick, will dramatically reduce evaporation and keep your garden looking fantastic
- Keeps moisture around plant roots, and reduces plant stress
- Protects the topsoil from wind erosion
- As mulch slowly breaks down, it adds nutrients enriching the soil
- Smothers weed growth
- Makes your garden beds look great



### Council Briefing

Tuesday 24 March // 6pm

### Council Meeting

Tuesday 31 March // 7pm

Phil Renkin Centre, Two Rocks

### Meet the Mayor on the Road

Friday 17 April 11am-1pm

SPROUT, Alkimos Beach

Bookings essential 9405 5654

## COMMUNITY FUNDING

The March Funding Program is NOW OPEN and will close at the end of this month.

Community groups are encouraged to visit [wanneroo.wa.gov.au](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au) and read about the program to determine whether their project or event is eligible for funding.

FREE

## VERGE TREE PLANTING

The City offers this service to all residents and businesses. There are a variety of trees to choose from, with planting occurring over the winter months.

For more information or to submit a request, visit [wanneroo.wa.gov.au](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au) or call the City on 9405 5000.

Requests need to be submitted by Thursday 30 April 2015.

## SENIORS FORUM 2015 - LIVING WITH A NEW AGE



You are invited to join us for an afternoon of interactive discussions on issues relevant to our ageing population. Featuring special guest speaker Dr Ann Zubrick.

19 March 2015 // 2pm-3.30pm  
Wanneroo Civic Centre,  
23 Dundobar Road

Booking essential, 9405 5600  
or email [fundedervices@wanneroo.wa.gov.au](mailto:fundedervices@wanneroo.wa.gov.au)

## ARTAWARDS 2015 CALL FOR ENTRIES

West Australian artists are invited to enter works and be in the running for \$16,800 WORTH OF PRIZES

Access the online entry form at

[wanneroo.wa.gov.au/artawardsentryform](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au/artawardsentryform)

Entries close Wed 25 March 2015, 4pm

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

ENTER TODAY