



ANNUAL REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30TH JUNE 2010**

MISSION STATEMENT

To build on our history to create our future

SHIRE OF YORK

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

Introduction

The Annual Report of the Council is produced in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995 and provides a valuable record of the work of the Local Government over the reporting period.

The format of the Annual Report seeks to provide information in a way that is easy to read, interesting and informative.

As a part of our history it is designed to record the successes and challenges the Council faced and to demonstrate how the community and the Council faced those challenges.

The second part of the report provides the statement by the Auditor and the financial reports showing the statutory information in the format required by the Local Government Act.



Ray Hooper
Chief Executive Officer

27 October 2010

President's Report



Again it gives me pleasure to report to the residents of York on behalf of the whole Council for the period 2009-2010.

York is well placed to continue to grow economically and utilise opportunities as they present themselves.

Council have been planning for the Town Hall Centenary, which is an opportunity for the community to celebrate the birthday of one of WA's best known buildings in 2011.

As in the previous financial year the planning for the Forrest Oval complex has occupied much of the Councillors' calendar throughout 09-10.

Thanks are extended to the Councillors and staff that have been involved.

Structural Reform issues have been a major part of the workload for staff and Councillors. The RTG (Regional Transition Group) gains the Shire of Tammin and loses the Shire of Brookton. The community will be advised of any changes that will impact upon them. Your Council has endeavoured to remain positive about the reform and has constantly been involved in dialogue as to how York can best benefit from any changes. York continues to work with the SEAVROC (South East Avon Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils) group.

The Shire staff continue to strive to provide efficient and effective service to the community. I am continually amazed at the number of persons through the Shire doors each day and the front office staff does a terrific job of handling the numerous requests they receive. The whole staff work hard for the community and on your behalf I thank each of them for their efforts.

Councillors appreciate the support given to them by the community. By far the majority of conversations we have with the community are positive and this gives evidence of a strong community, one that looks for positives not negatives. As Councillors we endeavour to follow up on all requests but as is often stated, while it may have happened "this way" in the past, current Legislation restricts actually what a Councillor can do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Hooper'. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

Cr JP Hooper JP
President
Shire of York

Mission Statement

To build on our history to create our future

Our Vision

Community, Councillors and Council staff all contributed to the vision and stated that they wanted the Shire of York to be:

A proud community, which values and preserves its history, heritage, rural character and country lifestyle.

A cohesive and vibrant community, respecting diversity and working together with a strategic vision.

A friendly and safe place with strong community spirit.

An economically strong community, with growth in employment, businesses, agriculture and tourism.

A place with easy access to a full range of social services, including medical, education, and law and order.

A unique and beautiful place, attractive to residents, businesses and visitors – a town where people can come to learn and experience different things, away from the City.

A place with hope for the next generation, where heritage, the natural environment, farming and new developments are in balance.

A place of opportunity where our young people have a sense of what it means to belong to a community and be included.

A community recognised locally, nationally and internationally for its heritage, arts and crafts, and approach to tourism.

A Council, which provides leadership and vision, and is committed to working with all the diverse elements of the community to create a future of promise.

Council's Values

The following values characterise the style, beliefs and guiding principles of the councillors and staff of the Shire of York:

Commitment to providing good government for the people of York, in an open and accountable way.

Leadership and partnership in achieving the strategic direction for York, and encouragement of leadership and empowerment within the community.

Cooperation, consultation, communication and cohesiveness between council and community.

Mutual respect between councillors, council staff and community.

Acknowledgement of the views of others.

Recognition of initiative and achievement.

Determination to succeed.

Willingness to change.

Customer focus in all we do.

Fostering responsibility, responsiveness, teamwork, caring and compassion.

Passion for the Shire of York.

Appreciating a sense of humour.

Staff of the York Shire

Senior Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Mr Ray Hooper

Deputy Chief Executive Officer (vacated January 2010)

Mr Graham Stanley

Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Mrs Tyhscha Cochrane

Engineer – Manager of Works

Mr Simon Patterson

Manager Administration & Technical Services

Vacant

Environmental Health Officer/Building Inspector (vacated December 2009)

Mr Peter Stevens

Manager Environmental Health and Building Services

Mr Gordon Tester

Shire Planner

Mr Patrick Ruettjes

Human Resources

The organisation would be unable to function without the support of its administration staff and I would like to pay tribute to the following staff and identify their role in our operations:

Tabitha Bateman	Senior Finance Officer
Kim Crawford	Youth Co-ordinator
Matthew Davies	Payroll/ Finance Officer
Lindy Dewar	Customer Service Officer/ Library
Kate Emin	Records Officer/Customer Service
Cindy Keeble	Library Officer
Jody Lilleyman	Customer Service Officer
Carol Littlefair	Museum Curator
Bill Livingstone	Swimming Pool Manager
Gail Maziuk	Finance/ Special Projects Officer
Nicole McNamara	Development Services Officer
Pat Mogridge	Rates/Cemetery
Angela Plichota	Ranger
Helen D'Arcy-Walker	Executive Support Officer
Michelle Purdy	Cleaner
Melanie Van de Pol	Cleaner
Norma Woods	Recreation Supervisor
Kurt Rivette	Trainee
Judith Anderson	Environmental Health Officer
Les Oakley	Building Surveyor
Brooke Newman	Planning/Compliance Officer
Matthew Sharpe	Ranger

ADMINISTRATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES SECTOR

The 2009/2010 Financial Year has again proved to be an extremely busy period for Council staff, predominantly as a result of increased development pressures, Local Government Structural reform projects, new government funding programs such as the Federal Government's economic stimulus funding and the State Government's "Royalties for Regions" program and more accounting reforms required as a result of amendments to the Local Government Act and associated Regulations.

There has also been a number of new staff employed by the Shire to replace staff that have retired, pursued alternative careers or taken maternity leave. The new staff include:

Gordon Tester	Manager Environmental Health and Building Services
Helen D'Arcy-Walker	Executive Support Officer
Kurt Rivette	Trainee
Judith Anderson	Environmental Health Officer
Les Oakley	Building Surveyor
Michelle Purdy	Cleaner
Brooke Newman	Planning/Compliance Officer
Matthew Sharpe	Ranger

Elections

There was a Local Government election held during the 2009/10 Financial Year.

The Shire of York Council for 2009/10 was as follows:

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Expiry of Term</u>
Tony Boyle	Oct 2013
Roy Scott	Oct 2013
Brian Lawrance – Deputy Shire President	Oct 2013
Pat Hooper – Shire President	Oct 2011
Trevor Randell	Oct 2011
Tricia Walters	Oct 2011

End of Year Financial Situation

The York Shire Council recorded a surplus of \$750,473 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. The surplus can be attributed to economic stimulus measures brought in by the Federal Government such as the Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program and early payment of a portion of the 2010/11 untied Grants Commission grants. Other contributors to the surplus include incomplete road construction works, unspent SEAVROC funds, reduced staff costs due to a number of new positions not being filled or only filled for part of the year and some existing positions becoming vacant during the year thus not being filled for a full 12 months. Most of the non-completed works have been included in the 2010/2011 budget. These unspent grants and SEAVROC funds have been placed into reserves to be drawn upon in 2010/11.



New starting blocks at the York Swimming Pool were installed using funds provided by the Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program.

Valuations

Rural land was re-valued during the period in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Land Information to value rural land on an annual basis.

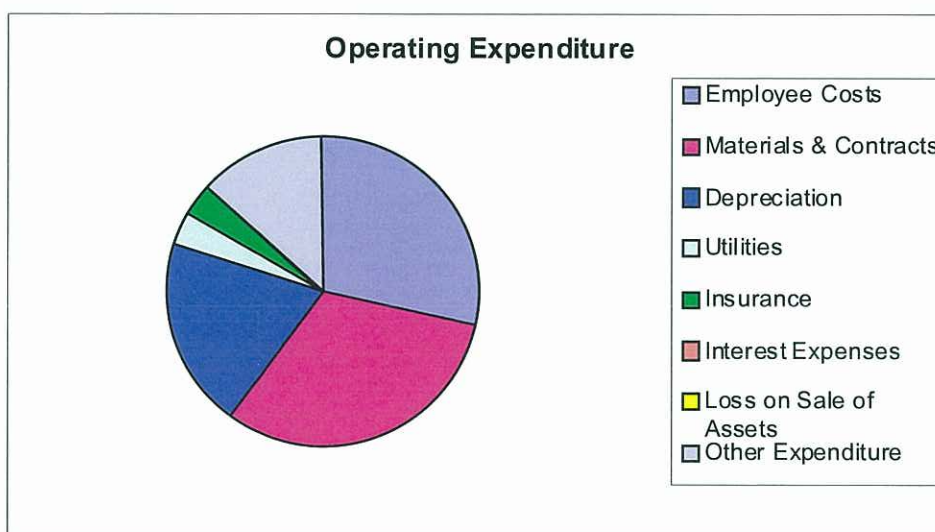
Smaller rural land holdings valuations increased slightly but with the reduction in the rate in the dollar set by the Council the majority of small land holdings rates levied for 2009/10 were reduced considerably from the previous financial year. Broad acre holdings had large increases in valuations combined with the reduced rate in dollar actual rates levied were much higher on these properties for 2009/10.

GRV values remained the same as 2006/07 due to GRV revaluation only being carried out by the Department of Land Information every five years. The next GRV valuation will be applied in financial year 2011/12.

Revenue and Expenditure

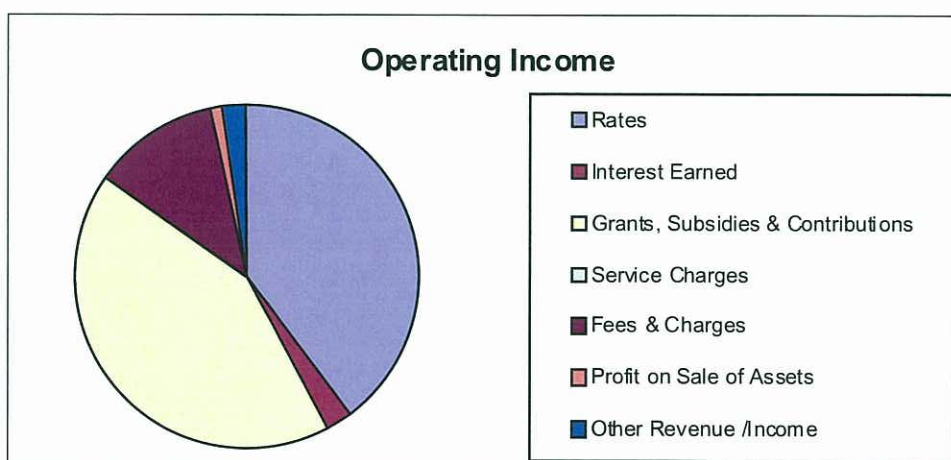
Operating Expenditure

Employee Costs	\$1,590,335	28.49%
Materials & Contracts	\$1,745,021	31.26%
Depreciation	\$1,103,167	19.76%
Utilities	\$199,693	3.58%
Insurance	\$172,170	3.08%
Interest Expenses	\$4,382	0.08%
Loss on Sale of Assets	\$0	0.00%
Other Expenditure	\$743,353	13.31%
TOTAL	\$5,583,059	100.00%



Operating Income

Rates	\$2,949,317	39.73%
Interest Earned	\$188,544	2.54%
Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	\$3,150,815	42.44%
Service Charges	\$0	0.00%
Fees & Charges	\$897,411	12.09%
Profit on Sale of Assets	\$80,821	1.09%
Other Revenue/Income	\$156,710	2.11%
TOTAL	\$7,423,618	100.00%



Rates Incentive Prize

**SHIRE OF YORK
RATES INCENTIVE PRIZES
WINNERS**

FIRST PRIZE— Mr Shane Hayward

The Shire of York, in conjunction with the York & Districts Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank, a \$1,000 bank account

SECOND PRIZE— Ms Christine Buchanan

200 litres of Unleaded Petrol donated by Fuel Distributors of WA Pty Ltd.

THIRD PRIZE— Mr Oliver Calnan

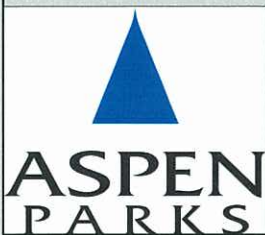
One night's accommodation supplied by Aspen Parks.

FOURTH PRIZE—Mr John Dawson (Elementary Investments)

Tickets to the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra for Paul Daniels Conducts Elgar Saturday 21 November 2009 at Perth Concert Hall



West Australian
Symphony Orchestra



Fuel Distributors
of Western Australia Pty Ltd

The Shire of York gratefully acknowledges the support of the York & Districts Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank, Fuel Distributors of Western Australia Pty Ltd, and Western Australia Symphony and Aspen Parks for their contributions to the 2009/2010 rates incentive prizes.

These prize winners were drawn by random computer selection.



Community Assistance & Support

Once again community organisations were provided with financial assistance through direct sponsorship and donations. The Council budgeted \$24,547 in direct sponsorship assistance as well as picking up the tab for the free use of facilities and the use of, transport and cleaning of the A.R.O.C. portable toilets and lighting plant for a number of events. This would have easily mounted to more than \$5,000 in indirect assistance. Whilst the whole amount was not expended some of the projects were transferred to the 2010/11 financial year. In addition to this the Shire provided direct cash assistance to help fund the operations of the York Tourist Bureau and provided rent free use of Town Hall Offices to the Tourist Bureau.

Community Sponsorships for 2008/2009 were as follows:

Name	Purpose	Funds
York Masonic Lodge	Lodge Hall kitchen refurbishment. Project in progress since 2006	\$2764.00
York Swimming Club Inc	Portable Shade and new swim equipment	\$1,750.00
York Junior Netball Club	Funding for 2009 Development Day and for purchase of representative uniforms	\$1,250.00
Cantara Choir	Community Entertainment	\$500.00
Wheatbelt Men's Health (Inc)	York Biannual Well Men's Health Day	\$1,700.00
Talbot Brook Land Management Assoc Inc	Restoration of degraded land and tributaries	\$3,500.00
York Horsemen's Assoc Inc	To support the aims of YHA and maintain it as a regular and viable competition	\$2,000.00
York District High School P&C	Cross Walk Attendant service	\$1,000.00
York Agricultural Society Inc	York Show 2009 Fireworks	\$2865.00
York Croquet Club (Inc)	Request for sponsorship for 1 week of celebrations commemorating 100 years of croquet in York	\$1,000.00
Central Group of Affiliated Agricultural Societies	District Display 2009 Royal Agricultural Show	\$500.00
		\$18,829.00

It should be noted that the above contributions do not include in-kind assistance provided to many community organisations and contributions paid to organisations towards the development of Council owned facilities.

In 2009-10 the Shire also made a donation to the Shire of Toodyay. The sum of \$3000.00 was donated to the Bush Fire Disaster Relief Appeal. The Shire was pleased to be in a position to be able to contribute to the disaster in the Shire of Toodyay and hopes that York will never be placed in a situation where we require a similar appeal to help our community.

Library

The York Library has had a busy year with an increase in usage and a marked increase in the number of items available for loan and the number of people that have joined the library.

Library issues overall increased in 2009/10. There has been a drop in the number of Non-Fiction items issued over the year, but Adult Fiction and Junior items increased in usage. This can perhaps be attributed to the rise in the popularity of the internet with more and more people doing their research on-line. Children's story time has remained very popular and the library now participates in the "Better Beginnings" program which encourages parents to read to their children.

There has been a marked increase in local book stock. The local book stocks have increased by 1117 this year. The growth in book stock can be attributed to the generous donations that we received from our community. Shire funds have also been used to purchase some of the latest bestsellers so that our readers do not have to wait months to read their favourite authors.

We have had a significant increase in the demand of loan items from other libraries for York Library users. The number of library memberships has increased by 140 borrowers.

Annual Statistics of the York Library - 2009 /2010

Items Issued	Adult Non Fiction	5505
	Adult Fiction	12,438
	Junior Library	4,751
	Paperbacks, Magazines	757
	Total	23,451
Membership	Adults	1,075
	Family	286
	Junior	92
	Total	1,361
General Statistics	Library was opened for	2,134 hrs
	Books issued per hour	10.98
	Items requested by other libraries	203
	Items requested from other libraries	1237
	Requests for information	468
Local Stock On Hand	Adult Non Fiction	2,621
	Adult Fiction	2,544
	Junior	1,026
	Total	6,191

Residency Museum

The Museum had a busy year as usual. In addition to the ongoing collections care, answering of public enquiries and other museum management matters, some of the special projects/achievements this year have been:

Archaeological Dig

Led by Sean Winter, a team of PhD students from University of Western Australia undertook a dig at the rear of the Museum, finding evidence of several Convict Depot buildings and structures. His full report and the objects collected during the dig will in due course become part of the Museum collection.

Replacement of ceiling in Room 2 of Museum

An unexpected collapse of the original ceiling in room 2 occurred in May, the plasterwork and vegetable-fibre structure finally giving up after over 150 years. Acting Curator Samantha Good successfully organised the enormous task of safely removing the collections and liaising with the Heritage Council regarding the replacement. The work was funded by the Shire and undertaken to Heritage Council requirements by local contactors.



New exhibition for Room 2 is completed

After the inevitable delay due to the ceiling works, Room 2's new exhibition was completed and tells the story of the development of York in its boom years of the 1890's to 1920's. A different storyboard design was used and many objects that had been in storage for some years are now on display.



New audio-visual equipment installed in Room 2

A TV and DVD player have been installed to play archival film; the first film to be shown is a record of the traditional chaff-cutting process using reaper-binders and a steam chaff cutter, kindly provided by George and Lorna Saunders. Other archival film has also been obtained and this will eventually be provided as a multiple-choice menu that the public can choose from to watch archival film footage.

Both this equipment and the new exhibition above have been funded through a Lotterywest Interpretation of Cultural Heritage grant.

Two Community exhibitions held

The hall display space is dedicated to six-month exhibitions that provide an opportunity for local groups to celebrate their heritage, or other topics with a local theme. "100 Years of Croquet in York" was followed by the current exhibition "Still In Motion – the story of picture shows in York", to coincide with the York Film Society's hosting of the National Conference of Film Societies.

Development of the Ballardong Noongar Six Seasons Garden Walk

Local Noongar community members have been involved in this project that has seen the transformation of an unused section of remnant bushland into an interesting garden walk. It is now full of local native plant species and accompanied by a leaflet explaining the importance of Budjar [Country] and local flora and fauna to the Ballardong people. Students from York District High School created ceramic artworks in the form of rocks decorated with local native animals and the names of the six Aboriginal seasons, which line the pathway. This project has been funded through a Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Community Incentive Scheme grant.

Record Keeping

A complete review of the Shire of York's Recordkeeping Plan was carried out in early 2010.

Staff worked together to ensure compliance by the due date.

The Shire of York, which is renowned for its heritage values and its commitment to preserving local history, supports the principles of the State Records Act and recognises the importance of establishing and maintaining a reliable and credible Record Keeping System.

The State Records Commission provided the following details on the 23rd June 2010:

At its meeting on 18 June 2010, the State Records Commission APPROVED the amended Recordkeeping Plan (the Plan) for the Shire of York (the Shire).

The Plan demonstrates progress towards better practice recordkeeping and compliance with the minimum requirements of SRC Standard 2: Recordkeeping Plans and SRC Standard 6: Outsourcing.

In accordance with section 28 of the *State Records Act 2000*, the Plan for the Shire is to be reviewed within five years of its approval date. Once completed, a report of the review must be submitted to the State Records Office by **18 June 2015**.

I acknowledge that the Plan indicates a strong commitment to address certain matters within specific timeframes and I would expect that the review will reflect further improvement in those areas identified in the attachment.

Freedom of Information

It is this local government's intention to provide access to requested documents, wherever possible, in the ordinary course of daily work provided that in so doing no harm is inflicted upon the rights or interests of private individuals or commercial organisations.

Where requested documents are of a sensitive nature the application will be dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act taking into account all parties concerned.

It is our belief that this strategy will facilitate the provision of information to the public in a prompt and cost effective manner whilst still observing the need to preserve the confidentiality of classified information.

In 2009/10 there were three formal Freedom of Information application received. Those concerned received edited information in relation to their requests.

Planning for the Future

On 5th September 2009, Council adopted a Plan for the Future for the District with the following objectives:

- To obtain Federal and State grant monies that allow the provision of works and services for the growing district
- Maintain Rates and Charges increases that are commensurate with regional and State growth and rate of inflation
- Where practical and necessary, obtain new loans borrowings that allow capital and infrastructure development
- Incorporate the programs and activities proposed in the Plan for the Future in the Annual Budget
- Expend 95% of Capital Works by 30 June each year.

Major initiatives for 2009/10 included:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| ➤ Roads construction | \$2,114,559 |
| ➤ Major Plant and Equipment Purchases | \$ 436,329 |

Both road construction and plant replacement form significant parts of Council's annual budgets and these items have proceeded in line with Council's long-term plans.

The Plan for the Future will be updated during the 2010/11 year and residents will be given the opportunity to provide input into the updated plan.

Complaints about Conduct of Members

Council is required to report on official complaints that result in action under section 5.110 6 (b) or (c) of the Local Government Act 1995. During 2009/10 no such complaints were received.

HEALTH, BUILDING, TOWN PLANNING, FIRE PREVENTION & REGULATORY SERVICES SECTOR

The Development Services Section of the Council is jointly managed by Mrs Tyhscha Cochrane, Mr Patrick Ruettjes and Mr Gordon Tester and the areas of responsibility involve Environmental Health, Building Control, Building Maintenance, Town Planning and Ranger Services.

Health

There are now two Environmental Health Officers, Mr Gordon Tester and Ms Judith Anderson who are responsible for monitoring various aspects of public health within the Shire. This includes the inspection of food premises to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation, public building inspections, swimming pool inspections and offensive trade monitoring.

These duties are also undertaken on a contract basis for the Shires of Tammin, Quairading and Cunderdin.

Council continued to monitor the structural and operational aspects of all premises to ensure compliance with the requirements of relevant legislation.

21 effluent disposal systems were approved for installation.

The following health related industries are currently operating in the Shire.

Offensive Trades:	3
Public Buildings:	11
Food Premises	64
Public Accommodation (incl B & B)	29
Public Swimming Pools (Health Department Approved)	2

Food Act 2008

The *Food Act 2008* (the Act) was passed on the 8 July 2008 by the Western Australian Parliament and was implemented on the 23 October 2009. The Act applies to everyone involved in the sale of food in WA.

The Shire of York has now registered all food business within the Shire requiring businesses to complete a Notification and Registration form and pay an annual fee.

Notification and Registration forms have been returned to the Shire. The Shire will issue Certificate of Registrations for all food business under the Act. This Certificate of Registration is now required to conduct a food business in the Shire.

Food Act 2008 has adopted *the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code) without amendment. The code requires all food handlers to undertake food safety training.

The Shire of York has established a free Online Food Safety Training course to assist food businesses to meet their food safety training requirements under the Act. The Online Food Safety Training was developed by Environmental Health Australia and is being used extensively throughout Australia.

Information from the Notification and Registration forms will be used to undertake a risk profiling of food businesses. The risk profile will determine the frequency of food businesses inspections.

Swimming Pools

The York Public War Memorial Swimming Pool was inspected and sampled regularly.

Inspection and sampling three public swimming pools as defined by the Health Act was undertaken throughout the season.

Samples of the swimming pool water are sent for analysis to a Perth laboratory to ensure they meet the required standards.

The Health Department of WA conducted an audit of all public swimming pools in the Shire resulting in several premises choosing to close their pools to members of the public pending future upgrading of their facilities.

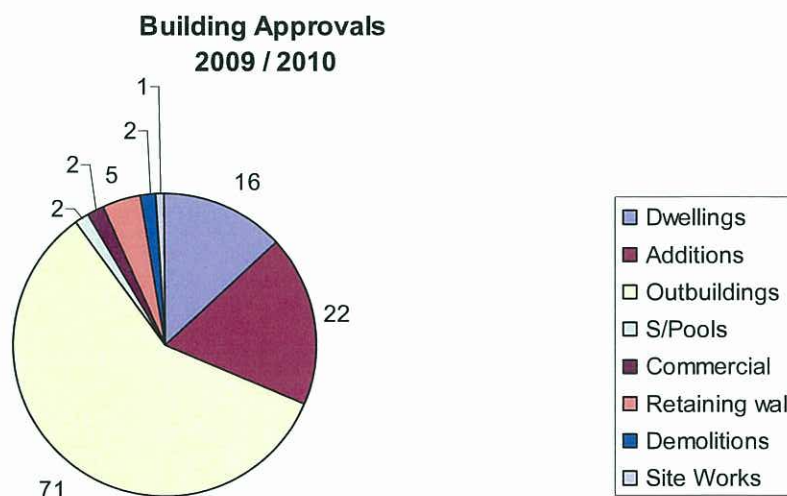
Swimming pool manager Bill Livingstone continues to do an excellent job managing and maintaining the pool.

Upgrades of the chlorination and filtration system for the York Public Swimming Pool are being considered for 2010/2011 financial year.

Building

In order to improve the level of customer service in regards to building matters, Council contracted a professional Building Surveyor who also undertakes building surveying activities in the Shires of Tammin, Quairading and Cunderdin.

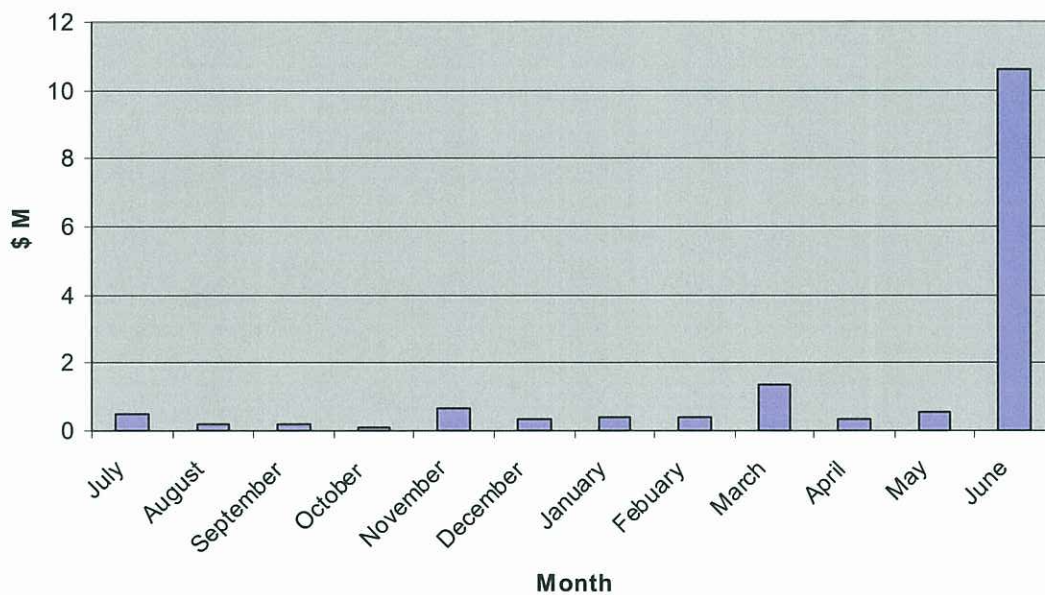
In 2009/2010 the Building Control Section of the Council processed 121 building applications. These applications were split into the following categories:



Comparison table for previous years are as follows:

	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
Dwellings	22	46	42	44	31	36	28
Additions	23	30	60	59	35	46	32
Outbuildings	78	124	75	78	65	60	48
S/ Pools	10	8	10	7	8	6	7
Commercial	7	10	4	8	7	17	1
Total	140	218	191	196	146	165	116

Construction Values 2009/2010



The Council's Officers audit building works to ensure compliance with the approved plans and to ensure that all work is carried out to the necessary standard.

The approximate value of building works in the Shire was \$20.1 million, up 62% in value, from \$8.1 million in 2008/09.

While the number of building licences issued was 15% down on the previous years number of licences issued, the value of the total amount of construction increased by approximately 62% due to two major commercial projects in the York Townsite.

Town Planning

Ms Brooke Newman was appointed as the Statutory Planning/Compliance Officer during the year and commenced in January 2010.

The Council continues to utilise Town Planning Scheme No. 2 to guide development within the Shire in association with the Local Planning Strategy and a series of outline development plans for defined precincts. The Local Planning Strategy, CBD,

Equine Precinct and Industrial Areas have all been the subject of continuous research and development and as the Council develops its various precinct plans it will consult widely with the community and other interested parties.

During the year a total of 66 development applications and 21 subdivision/amalgamation applications were received by the Shire.

Heritage is an important part of development in York and Council utilises the services of Kris Bizzaca, the Regional Heritage Advisor for the Avon Arc. Due to the need for advice on heritage matters Council utilises 20 hours per month of Kris' time.

Waste Collection & Disposal

The Council again participated in the "drumMUSTER" program. This nation wide program provides for the collection and disposal of used farm chemical containers. A new collection yard was located adjacent to the transfer station and collections are held regularly. 5549 drums were collected under the program this year slightly less than the amount collected last year.

Council continued with its participation in the Mobile Muster program. This program was commenced to ensure that mobile phones and their accessories are recycled. Collection points for mobiles are located at the Shire Administration Office and the waste transfer station.

A total of 1784 tonnes of waste were transported to the Shire of Northam landfill site for the 2009/10 financial year.

A significant amount recyclable material and waste oil were also recycled during the year.

Electronic waste was collected and recycled with funding for this activity having been obtained from the Waste Management Authority .

The skip bin service offered to residents with a bin service continues to be popular. The bulk waste pick-ups which were introduced in 2007 continue to be well received and additional collections were carried out in 2009/10 and will continue into the future.

Building Construction and Maintenance

The Council continues to maintain and improve its assets. This year projects included:

- Recreational Vehicle Dump Point – Avon Park
- York swimming pool connected to sewer

Ranger Services

Council's Ranger Ms Angela Plichota has been kept extremely busy in all aspects of her role and for part of this time Ms Plichota was on Maternity Leave. Council would like to welcome Matthew Sharpe to the position who has taken on the new role with vigor and enthusiasm.

Fire control remains a primary responsibility. During the fire season the Ranger takes on co-ordination of the approximate 350 members of the Shire's Bush Fire Brigades through a network of three base stations and 80 mobile units.

Animal Control has also been a priority with educating people on the responsibilities of animal ownership. The occurrence of dogs wandering from their properties or not kept on a lead in public is still steady.

There were approximately 650 dogs registered in the Shire.

Straying stock on the roads has also been a contentious issue with owners needing to ensure their fencing is adequate to keep their stock within.

Ranger Services maintains a constant vigilance with the RSPCA regarding animal cruelty within the district

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Council continues to make progress on the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) which was adopted by Council on 16th July 2007. A series of objectives and strategies were included in the DAIP along with a list of 10 recommendations for the delivery and monitoring of initiatives and strategies included in the plan. Council staff will work on an ongoing basis over the coming years to implement those recommendations.

Subject to funding Council is actively pursuing the option of installing an external lift to access the upper floor of the York Town Hall.

WORKS & SERVICES SECTOR

Staff

The Council's works staff continues to undertake various work activities ranging from mowing grassed areas to constructing and sealing a regional road.

Mike Gill	Geoff Crossing
Simon Patterson	Robert Mackenzie
Peter Atkins	Neil Thomas
Robbie Windsor	Les Burrow
Richard Smith	Glenn Plaisted
Trevor Barrett	Michael Ashworth
Michelle Delich	Donald Randell
Shane Fewster	Aaron Mortimore

Plant

The Council purchased/replaced the following plant items in this reporting period.

- Road Broom
- John Deere Loader
- Tip Truck
- John Deere Mower
- Engineer Vehicle

Capital Works

Roads to Recovery

2009/10 was the year of Stage 3 of the Federally Funded Roads to Recovery Programmes. \$1,195,356 will be provided over four (4) years for local road projects.

Specific road works undertaken through Roads to Recovery Funding in 2009/10 include the following:

- Top Beverley Road
- Greenhills Road
- Avon Terrace

Regional Roads

The Western Australian Government provided \$203,287 for works on designated regional roads and Council provided an additional contribution of \$206,009.

Works were undertaken on:

- York-Tammin (Goldfields) Road – Widen and upgrade to 7 metre seal

Black Spots

Council was fortunate to receive \$23,260 funding to improve intersections at York-Tammin/Mannavale Roads and Mokine/Boyercutty Roads through the State Black Spot programme. Council contributed an additional \$36,630 towards these projects. Council will continue to seek funding in coming years through this and other programmes to improve the safety of intersections and other recognised black spots around the Shire.

Municipal Fund

In addition to the works mentioned above Council expended a further \$1,548,792 on transport based works and services which included street cleaning, tree lopping, road & bridge maintenance, road construction, gravel purchases, sealing & re-sealing, culverts & drainage and car park maintenance and construction. Income of \$243,977 was received in 2009/10 to partly offset this expenditure.

Major Works undertaken were:

- Greenhills South Road – gravel & seal
- West Talbot Road – extend seal
- Ovens Road – gravel sheet
- Ashworth Road – extend seal
- Flea Pool Road – gravel
- Footpaths
- Drainage
- Carparking

It is programmed that similar levels of expenditure will be in place for the next four (4) years with some increased funding for regional roads and bridges.

Over the past few years the Council has significantly increased its expenditure on asset preservation for roads and this preservation effort must be continued if the road network is to be sustainable.

Bridges

The Shire of York \$514,000 through the WA Grants Commission for bridge upgrading and Main Roads WA contributed a further \$257,000. Widening & upgrading was undertaken by Main Roads WA contractors on the bridges on Mannavale and Qualen West Roads to improve road safety and heavy vehicle access.

Private Works

Private works income generated in response to works requests amounted to \$66,229.94. The Council is conscious that its involvement in private works will not be at a detriment to its own works program and of our local contractors.

Recreation Facilities

The redevelopment of Forrest Oval moved ahead throughout 2009/10. Stage 1 saw the appointment of an architect to design a new recreation and convention facility, which includes home and visitor change rooms, trainers and umpire rooms, shower, toilets and disabled facilities. Also included in the new facility will be a ground floor gymnasium with a parent's room attached. A function/convention facility with full bar and a commercial grade kitchen will be a special feature of the new building, along with a large committee room and several office spaces also incorporated.

The oval was realigned from an East/West to North/South perspective, topped with a new turf surface and reticulated. Lights were installed which provides both training and playing standard lighting. This portion of the project was completed in December 2009.

Construction of a new ablution and change room facility for the Hockey Club was handed over in May 2010.

Stage 1 was completed at a total cost of \$1,245,762 which was supported by Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Funding of \$243,584 with the remainder funded by the Shire of York and community in-kind contributions.

Stage 2 is the construction of the exciting new recreation and convention facility which will commence in November 2010.

Gravel Reserves

The sourcing of gravel to undertake our works programme is a continual struggle as locating quality gravel supplies within close proximity to the job reduces our cartage lead time and overall job cost. Council continues to use a royalty system for gravel which may provide access to gravel supplies.

COMMUNITY

Australia Day Breakfast

This year's Australia Day celebration was blessed with perfect weather and saw a large crowd of more than 300 people turned up for a great Aussie breakfast in the park and to celebrate being Australian.

We welcomed new Australian Citizens, the Otto family, who shared their citizenship ceremony with the York community.

The Youth Advisory Council members and Youth Co-ordinator Kim Crawford, the Apex and Scouts groups, assisted by many wonderful volunteers, cooked and served bacon, eggs and sausages from 7.30am whilst the Salvation Army provided tea, coffee and cold drinks.

A very large thank you is extended to the following people:

- York District High School 2010 Head Boy Michael Wallis and Head Girl Tayla Kneller for performing their first official duties in raising the flags at the beginning of the ceremony.
- York & Districts Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank for their continued support and the donation of the financial rewards for the winners of the Sports Awards.
- York Young Men's Group for assisting with breakfast & supplying the youth games / entertainment.
- York Scouts for their support with the breakfast.
- Frank Dols for providing the music and sound system.
- Salvation Army for their provision of hot and cold beverages.
- York IGA for their sponsorship of the event.
- York Honours Committee – Tony Boyle, Tim Hooper, Gordon Marwick, Gail Maziuk, Wayne Collins, Graeme Hunt, Joanne Allen
- Nice & Easy Singers for the national anthem and entertainment.
- Individuals, clubs and organisations who nominated people for the awards.
- The Community of York for attending.
- York Shire Council for ongoing commitment to the Australia Day event.
- Avon Waste for their provision of clean wheelie bins for the kid's games and extra bins for rubbish.
- York Shire Works staff for the high level of presentation of the park and for their involvement

Australia Day Awards

The York Shire Council congratulates the winners and all nominees for the following awards.

Junior Citizen of the Year

Nominees:

Kyle Lister, Mitchell Collins

Winner: Mitchell Collins

Nominated by York District High School

Mitchell has participated in many of his school's sporting and cultural activities. More recently he achieved the following in 2009:

- Head Boy
- Adult School Council Student Representative
- Student Youth Parliament member
- School Ball Committee member
- Emergency Services Cadet Deputy Leader
- Volunteered at: Senior Citizen's Appreciation Day, York Shire Australia Day Celebrations, York RSL Anzac Day parade and Remembrance Day
- Assisted in many sporting events in a volunteer capacity and as a participant.

Mitchell has exhibited a high degree of social competence in all school activities and behaviour at school. He is capable of working in group situations and has applied himself diligently to his school work and his role as Head Boy. Mitchell has completed over 40 hours of community service as part of the school Community Service Program throughout 2009. He is a hard working and sincere volunteer who earns respect from the people he works with. Mitchell is an outstanding citizen at school and has, on many occasions, demonstrated this in the wider York community.

Citizen of the Year

Nominees:

Roz D'Arcy-Evans, Lorna Ashworth, David Wallace, Bill Roy, Gwen Gentle, Phil Furey, Tricia Byfield, Dee Backshall

Winner: Gwen Gentle

Nominated by the York Agricultural Society

Gwen has been involved with the York Agricultural Society for the majority of her life, with both parents achieving life membership. Gwen has served on the committee for 34 years and has been Vice President for 3 terms. In 2006 Gwen was awarded Life Membership to the York Agricultural Society, recognising her tireless efforts. In 2008 The York Agricultural Society nominated Gwen for the Rural Community Achiever Award run by the Royal Agricultural Society.

Gwen also served on the York Tourist Bureau for 9 years, and was Vice President for 3 years. These are but a few of Gwen Gentle's contributions to and achievements within the York community. Among others, Gwen was a volunteer with the mobile blood bank in Northam until the service ceased, she started a fundraising project for the Anglican Church in York which ran for 5 years, Gwen was on the inaugural committee of the National Trust Courthouse complex in York and served as secretary for 3 years. Gwen has been a volunteer driver for meals on wheels for the past 36 years.

Junior Sports Star of the Year

Nominees:

Raymond Tidman, Courtney Humphrey

Winner: Raymond Tidman

Nominated by the York Swimming Club

Raymond travelled with the York Swimming Club to Carvarvon and competed in the 2009 Country Pennant Competition and was recognised by Swimming WA for his excellent result in the 50 metre breaststroke final. Raymond is already swimming faster than his then personal best of 40.23 seconds over 50 metres and is definitely considered a prospect in the future.

Sports Star of the Year

Nominees:

Jenine Robinson, Anne Budiselik

Winner: Jenine Robinson

Nominated by the York Golf Club

Jenine is a valued member who assists with busy bees and general duties around the club. She was a past Captain and a great ambassador for the York Golf Club in the many open days she plays throughout the Avon Valley and further afield.

Jenine won the York Golf Club Ladies Championship for 2009 and was also awarded trophies for : International Bowl Silver Division, Best 2 qualifying nett rounds, Most consistent, Putting competition, Eccleitic competition.

2009 was the 21st time that Jenine had been the York Ladies Champion.

Appreciation

I would like to thank all staff of the Shire of York for their loyal and dedicated service during the period under review. I believe the Shire and its residents are well served by their employees many of who go to great lengths to provide services to the public in their role as a Council officer.



RAY HOOPER
Chief Executive Officer