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Date: 6 October 2023

To: **Rylington Park Committee**  
Shire President  
Deputy Shire President  
Councillors  
Community



## NOTICE AND AGENDA – RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The Rylington Park Committee Meeting of the Shire of Boyup Brook will be held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 10 October 2023 commencing at 6:00pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

**Leonard Long**  
Chief Executive Officer



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## AGENDA

### 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at \_\_\_\_pm.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and work.

The meeting will be audio recorded for minute taking purposes.

### 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

#### 2.1 ATTENDANCE

##### **Councillors**

Shire President	Cr Richard F Walker
Deputy Shire President	Cr Helen C O'Connell
Councillors	Cr Charles A D Caldwell
	Cr Darren E King
	Cr Kevin J Moir

Community Committee Member	Andy McElroy
	James Johnston
	Joshua Stretch
ECU	Prof. Kerry Brown

##### **Invitees**

ECU	Kristy Gillian
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##### **Council Officers**

Chief Executive Officer	Leonard Long
Rylington Park Farm Manager	Marc Deas
Rylington Park Farm Coordinator	Erlanda Deas
Executive Officer	Maggie Le Grange

#### 2.2 APOLOGIES

#### 2.3 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**4.1 FINANCIAL AND PROXIMITY INTEREST**

**4.2 DISCLOSURES OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST THAT MAY CAUSE A CONFLICT**

**5. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**5.1 RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 AUGUST 2023**

<b>Moved:</b> .....	<b>Seconded:</b> .....
<b><u>OFFICER RECOMMENDATION RP 23/10/...</u></b>	
<b>That the Minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting held on 7 August 2023 be confirmed as being a true and accurate record.</b>	
..... <b>For:</b> <b>Against:</b>	

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**6.1 Rylington Park Aeration Trials**

Feedback on the aeration of the soil done by Cr King and the progress made on the installation of the fence / cage suggested at the previous meeting.

**6.2 Decision Tree**

As per the Committee Resolution 23/06/001, the Decision Tree grant application has been submitted to Wendy Perdon from South West Timber Hub.

Feedback to be provided.

**6.3 Western Australian Agricultural Collaboration (WAAC) – Research Funding Opportunities**

*Prof. Brown will be providing further feedback on the issue at either the October or November meeting.*

**6.4 ECU Drone Usage Report**

Prof. K Brown to provide feedback on the current projects that the drone is being used for.

**6.5 EvokeAg Conference opportunity February 2024**

Prof. K Brown to provide update on the EvokeAg 2024 Conference opportunity.

**6.6 Grass Trees & Damage Caused by Parrots**

At the Blackwood Basin Group (BBG) Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the subject of the health of grass trees in the local area was discussed.

A large number of grass trees are in a poor state of health, with a significant number having died due to the damage being done by Australian Ringnecks, commonly known as '28' parrots. Current examples are in the bushland just south of the Mayanup reserve grounds where grass trees are in various stages of damage by the 28's.

The problem was identified over 30 years ago. From 1996-2003 the Boyup Brook Land Conservation District Commission organised grants to support the conducting of radio tracking trials of the parrots to assess feeding habits. CALM Wildlife Branch issued damage licences to farmers to control the parrots.

A 'parrot committee' was formed, chaired by a Boyup Brook resident, the late Cr Noreen Tuckett. Other attendees of the committee included representatives from the Shires of West Arthur and Kojonup, CALM Wildlife, CALM Sharefarms, WACAP, Bunnings Sharefarms, Conservation Council of WA, Greens politician the late Dr Chrissy Sharp MLC and Dr Hilda Turnbull MLA.

On behalf of the BBG Committee, I would like to request that this matter is considered by the Shire of Boyup Brook and Edith Cowan University as a research project to be undertaken at the Rylington Park Facility.

Cr Adrian Price, member of the Blackwood Basin Group Committee compiled a scope of works for consideration by the Rylington Park Committee as a potential research program for ECU at Rylington Park.

"My thought of bringing this matter to BBG and then to the Shire of Boyup Brook was to obtain DBCA regulations, advice or support regarding control of Australian Ringnecks, such as issuing 'damage licences' which were common 20 years ago, to include cage trapping or shooting, to reduce the population of these parrots. I contacted DBCA six weeks ago and am awaiting their reply. Landholders wish to know what controls are acceptable. In 1997, CALM Wildlife Dept engaged me to issue 'damage permits' to landholders in the Shires of Boyup Brook, West Arthur and Kojonup to be restricted to cage trapping or shooting. This was following my observation of farmers applying poison grain in vineyards because of the damage to growth of vines. The parrots concentrated on the vines while non-target bird species consumed the poison grain.

Regarding Rylington-ECU, the bush reserve just south of Mayanup is currently impacted by these parrots and may be an ideal research site for ECU such as:

1. Why some grasstrees are attacked and eventually killed when other grasstrees nearby are not yet attacked?
2. Can substances be applied to grasstrees to discourage attack by parrots, though this may cause parrots to attack grasstrees which have not been treated? This was the case when wire cages were placed on top of grasstrees in the early stage of attack.
3. Does ECU have electronic methods of deterring parrots from attacking grasstrees without being detrimental to other fauna?
4. Raptors are a natural predator of these parrots, but the population of raptors have been reduced by secondary poisoning from vermin baiting. A number of the various falcons in the SW of WA have the speed, agility, desire and ability to kill 28's in flight. Is it unrealistic to encourage breeding of these raptors, or at least, minimise secondary poisoning?"

<b>6.7 2023 Rylington Park Field Day</b>
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Mrs E Deas to provide feedback on the Rylington Park Field Day held on 14 September 2023.



**Cropping**

- In-crop spraying and Flexi-N
- Spraying firebreaks
- Spray thistles & radish
- Pull radish in hay

**Trials**

- GRDC oat NVT
- Boyup Brook Ag Supplies trials
- Summit fertiliser retained seed trial
- Phil Nichols (UWA) sub clover variety trial
- Decision Tree – grant application sent in
- DPIRD red legged earth mite trial

**Schools / Events**

- Field day 14 September
- Shearing school 2-6 October

**General**

- Prisoners finished painting the kitchen and ablutions
- JD 6420 tractor with loader (7000 hours) – head gasket replacement and head reconditioning etc.
- Meeting with AWI – Rylington Park priorities & requirements
- Plan water management due to low stock water dam levels
- Truck

**What lies ahead**

- Checking sheep – flystrike
- Crutch hoggets
- Wean merino lambs
- Ram sales
- Market cull for age ewes
- Class hoggets
- Market cull hoggets
- Hay
- Setting up Synergy program to suit Rylington's reporting

**Calendar:**

- Shearing schools dates:
  - 23-27 October 2023
  - 13-17 November 2023
  - 18-20 December 2023 – improver school
- Ladies day – 15 March 2024



**7. REPORT OF OFFICERS**

<b>7.2 Rylington Park Scholarship 2023</b>	
<b>File Ref:</b>	Nil
<b>Previous Items:</b>	Nil
<b>Applicant:</b>	Nil
<b>Author and Title:</b>	Magdalena Le Grange, Executive Officer
<b>Declaration of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	Simple Majority
<b>Attachment Number</b>	Nil

<b>Moved:</b> .....	<b>Seconded:</b> .....
<b><u>OFFICER RECOMMENDATION RP 23/10/...</u></b>	
<b>That the Rylington Park Committee Resolve to:</b>	
<b>A. Nominate ..... to sit on the panel to consider the applications for the Rylington Park Scholarship.</b>	
.....	
<b>For:</b>	
<b>Against:</b>	

**SUMMARY**

Rylington Park Scholarship is an annual scholarship awarded to Boyup Brook Year 9 or Year 10 students who commit to attend an Agricultural College in Year 11 and 12.

**BACKGROUND**

The Rylington Park Scholarship was initiated by the then Rylington Park Management Committee Inc. as a way of promoting Eric Farley’s vision to engage and support the young people of Boyup Brook in agricultural pursuits.

**REPORT DETAIL**

The scholarship of \$1,000.00 will be awarded to Boyup Brook Year 9 or Year 10 students who commit to attend an Agricultural College in Year 11 and 12. The scholarship provides support for the student and will ensure the sustainability of agriculture in the Boyup Brook community.

Year 10 students will receive the funding when they go into Year 11. Year 9 students who choose to go to agricultural college in Year 10 are eligible for the funding during Year 11 of their studies.

The funding will be allocated in two (2) disbursements during the year. 50% will be paid at the commencement of Year 11 and the balance will be paid at the commencement of Year 12.

To ensure the integrity of the scholarship, the Rylington Park Committee would like interested students to submit a short-written expression of interest and participate in an informal interview. Students are to write a short (200-500 word) expression of interest for the scholarship. The panel will be looking for a genuine interest in agriculture as an on-going career. A commitment to bring the skills and knowledge gained back to the Boyup Brook community at some stage in the future will be highly regarded.

Interviews will be conducted with students who will be asked questions to provide information that demonstrates:

- A genuine interest in agriculture;
- A commitment to the Boyup Brook community;
- An ability to be academically successful in the Agricultural College environment;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and values; and
- Knowledge of the Rylington Park Institute for Agricultural Training and Research and its benefit to the community of Boyup Brook.

The questions are designed to learn about each student and their thoughts and feelings on the subject of agriculture. The interviews will be informal, but the panel is looking for students with a genuine interest in agriculture who may bring the knowledge and skills that they gain from their studies back to the Boyup Brook community.

Teacher judgements will also be taken into account when awarding the scholarship.

The interview and the written expression of interest will be combined to arrive at a final assessment.

### **REPORT DETAIL**

#### **Workforce**

Nil

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end

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Trial Agreements**

CEO is currently reviewing the agreements and will in due course put a 'letter of agreement' in place for all commercial and collaboration agreements and that it encapsulates that results of trials be communicated to the Committee and that researchers should showcase at Rylington Park Field Days.

- **Potential research project proposed by Greening Australia (rehabilitating creek line and establishing a native plant seed bank).**

Matter is on hold.

Professor Brown communicated that the collaboration with Greening Australia has been put back due to a delay at government level.

**9. FURTHER BUSINESS**

**10. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE OF MEETING**

Next meeting to be held on \_\_\_\_\_ 2023 at \_\_\_\_\_pm at the Council Chambers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at \_\_\_\_pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date