FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK...

Summer has started at last and we are enjoying some beautiful days on the coast and the inland agricultural areas are looking very green. I started my Grand Tour of the whole of the Shire yesterday and spent the afternoon with Ian Rennie exploring some of our boundaries. We visited the Billinlu Aboriginal community and the Tronox Administration Centre and then on to the proposed Iluka and Tronox Single Persons Quarters. Over the next few weeks I will be skirting around the whole Shire which will give me a greater understanding of our region outside the towns.

While we welcomed the rain we must spare a thought for the people who have been directly affected by massive flooding and thank goodness the State Government will provide emergency funding to repair the damage to the roads. Roads are 75% of our budget in this Shire and I am happy to say that they are very well maintained. The widening of Jurien East road continues which will be a great help to tourists and locals and improve road safety in the region.

February 14 was a wonderful experience when I hosted the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards in Cervantes. The outstanding quality of the contenders amazed everyone. The 2016 Citizen of the Year winner, Mr Jim Clarke, was warmly accepted and we are so very proud to have him in our Shire. Congratulations also to our 2016 Young Citizen of the Year, Tom Brooks, for his tireless efforts out in the community. Tom is a very committed, community minded individual and we are pleased to recognise his efforts also. Thanks must go to Dianne Knight and the Cervantes Cultural Committee for the presentation of the Hall with a beautiful art collection on display. All the users of the hall provided us with a lovely supper and the Cervantes Football Club took care of the bar. We were fortunate to have Mr Tony Pickworth from RAC as our guest speaker. Tony talked about the history of his organisation and their recent acquirements which include the Cervantes Holiday Park. It was very interesting to see where Cervantes fits into their Tourism Assets and very rewarding to see what the future holds for the small town. Tony commented to me that Cervantes “punches above its weight” when it comes to the community putting on an event which I am sure all involved will be pleased to hear.

I have been busy as usual with enquiries from all over regarding investing in our Shire and CEO, Mr Tony Nottle, and I have a busy calendar with meetings from some very interested investors. We currently have a proposal for a Piggery in our Shire which will bring many jobs as it grows through the proposed stages.

I am sure you are all anxiously awaiting the outcome of the State Election and are concerned about how it will affect you and your families. Hopefully it will be a good outcome for the Wheatbelt and we can continue serving our communities to the benefit of all.

WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

After extensive consultation on this issue and including an independent consultant preparing a report, Council has resolved to remain with the ‘no ward’ system currently in place.

In regard to the holding of elections by postal voting, Council resolved to reconsider this matter following the October 2017 annual election.

Council express appreciation to the many people and organisations who have participated in this process.
2016 YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR— CONGRATULATIONS TOM BROOKS

Tom was nominated by Advance Dandaragan.

Tom is a personable young man who is very community minded. He works for the local St John’s Ambulance depot by cleaning and washing the van both inside and out. He is now the organisations cleaner of their meeting room and wet rooms.

Within his town community Tom gardens – weeds, prunes and mows lawn for the elderly, vacant houses or for those too busy. He is the No. 1 free baby sitter for parents who need to bring their young children out for meetings and functions at night.

Tom plays nippers for the Dandaragan Football Club and was Runner-up Fairest & Best in 2016. He also represented the Association on numerous occasions and is the Reserves Boundary Umpire. He ensures that all water bottles are filled for both the Nippers and Reserves games. He mans the scoreboard during League games.

Despite there being no Junior Cricket team in Dandaragan in 2016, this has not deterred Tom from playing as he is a valued member of the Senior team which is allowing his skills to continue to develop. This has allowed Tom to be chosen in the Under 13’s Association Games. Tom attends training and helps out with fundraising. Another passion of Tom’s is motocross.

Tom has been an active member in all school, performing art productions since Kindergarten and has won awards for Drama in previous years. In 2016 he had lead roles at the Performing Arts Festival and in the end of year production. Tom is always willing to help make and paint props.

2016 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR— CONGRATULATIONS JAMES (JIM) CLARKE

James (Jim) was nominated by Jurien Bay Community Men’s Shed.

Jim is a long term resident of the Shire of Dandaragan. Within the last year, Jim has been involved in the development of an historical site of the Old Jetty at Hasting Street in Jurien Bay. This site commemorated the construction of the first jetty in the bay where the pastoral industry could be serviced during the middle of the 19th century. Jim was responsible for liaison between the Shire that carried out construction works and sourced much of the historical information that was used to develop the markers and plaques at the location. In addition, Jim was central to the development of the War Memorial at Hasting Street, he sought funding, the allocation of the land and its construction. His voice is an integral part of every service conducted at the site.

Jim is an active member of the Men’s Shed. He is a radio operator in the Sea Rescue Group providing support for all who use the service. Also as a volunteer at the Visitors’ Centre, Jim’s local knowledge of the district, including flowering plants, back tracks and places worth visiting come to the fore.

He is active in the Catholic Church, assisting with weekly services and providing input to the Parish Council and its operations. It is also worth noting that Jim has been a long time member of the Freemasons in town.

Jim is currently an executive member of the Men’s Shed administrative committee. In the past, Jim has held executive positions in the Bowling Club, Returned Services League and Senior Citizens. Although not an official community organisation, Jim has been pivotal in the group representing the community members who are opposed to unconventional gas production. Jim has held many committee positions in the Jurien Bowling Club and been active in its development over the years.

Despite Jim’s age, he is living proof that there is no barrier to service for the community. He is fiercely patriotic and devoted to the region that Dandaragan covers.
LITTERING ON BUILDING / CONSTRUCTION SITES

The Shire of Dandaragan has been receiving complaints regarding rubbish emanating from building sites within the Shire. Please be advised that this matter is taken seriously and if warranted offenders will be infringed. Would builders please ensure all loose rubbish is secured and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

DRAFT LOCAL PLANNING STRATEGY

The Shire invites submissions on the Draft Local Planning Strategy (the Strategy).

The Strategy sets out the long-term (25 years-plus) broad planning direction for the whole of the Shire of Dandaragan and will provide a strategic rationale for decisions related to the planning and development of the Shire, especially decisions related to the progressive review and amendment of the Local Planning Scheme over the next 10 -15 years

A summary of the Strategy is available upon request by contacting the Manager Planning on email to mp@dandaragan.wa.gov.au or full copies of the Strategy are available for reading (but not removal) at the Jurien Bay Administration Centre, Community Resource Centre in Dandaragan and the Cervantes and Badgingarra Libraries during office hours. The Strategy may also be viewed on the Shire’s website: www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au

The Shire also invites expressions of interest from community members in attending a community information session on the Strategy. The session will be held between 5.30pm – 7.00pm on Thursday 16 March 2017 at the Jurien Bay Council Chambers and if there is sufficient interest, similar sessions will be scheduled at other townsites. Attendance at a session will be through registration only. If you wish to register your attendance at a session then you should either email mp@dandaragan.wa.gov.au or phone directly on 9652 0800.

In forwarding your comments, it is requested that your submission be lodged by 4.00pm Friday 28 April 2017 addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dandaragan, PO Box 676, JURIEN BAY WA 6516 or by email to council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au.

For further information regarding the Strategy you may contact David Chidlow, Manager Planning, on 9652 0800 during office hours.

THIS STRATEGY IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND IT SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED THAT FINAL APPROVAL WILL BE GRANTED.

LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME NO. 7

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING APPROVAL PROPOSED PIGGYERY LOT 3616 AGATON ROAD, DANDARAGAN

The Shire of Dandaragan is in receipt of an application for planning approval to develop a piggery at Lot 3616 Agaton Road, Dandaragan. The application will be determined by the Midwest/Wheatbelt Joint Development Assessment Panel.

It is proposed to construct two piggery modules with capacity to house 68,000 pigs for this application.

A summary of the project is available upon request by contacting the Manager Planning on email to mp@dandaragan.wa.gov.au or full copies of the applications are available for reading (but not removal) at the Jurien Bay Administration Centre, Community Resource Centre in Dandaragan and the Cervantes and Badgingarra Libraries during office hours.

Written submissions are invited on this proposal and are requested to be lodged by 4.00pm Wednesday 22 March 2017 addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dandaragan, PO Box 676, JURIEN BAY WA 6516 or via email to council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2016 CITIZEN AND YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Dianne Knight, Emma Brooks, Josh Barnes, Owen (Penny) Randell, Ian Stiles, Lester Marston, Sue Johnson, Faye Wilkinson and winners James (Jim) Clarke and Young Citizen Tom Brooks
**SHIRE MATTERS**

**SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD**

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**Amendment to the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992**

Due to the significant public health risks associated with the mishandling of asbestos cement materials, the penalties under the *Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992* were recently increased by the Department of Health as an immediate measure to deter unlawful conduct and encourage compliance. A person who stores, breaks, damages, cuts, maintains, repairs, removes, moves, or disposes of, or uses any material containing asbestos without taking reasonable measures to prevent asbestos fibres entering the atmosphere commits an offence. It is also an offence to sell, supply or use any asbestos cement product. More information can be obtained at [http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Asbestos](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Asbestos).

**SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN ON FACEBOOK**

The Shire of Dandaragan is using Social Media as a platform to connect with the public and promote our regional assets to potential investors and visitors.

Like us on Facebook for local events, promotion or information. Interact with other community members and Councillors. Stay informed with Shire specific information and environmental warnings. Share your photos and experiences within our Shire.

**SHIRE WELCOMES A NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN**

Congratulations to Maida Akhtar who became an Australian Citizen on 15 December 2016. Maida’s Citizenship Ceremony took place in the Council Chambers with Shire President, Leslee Holmes, officiating the ceremony and presenting Maida with her Certificate of Australian Citizenship.

The ceremony was also attended by Councillors, Shire staff and friends of Maida.

Congratulations once again Maida!