

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK



I welcome members of the Community along with Councillors and staff of the Shire of Pingelly to 2018. What an exciting year it will be for us all with the positive happenings that will occur in our community for all to enjoy.

The first project due to be completed is the Primary Health Centre; a demonstration site initiated by the WA Country Health Service (WACHS). This project was developed in collaboration with the Pingelly Primary User Group (PUG) a group of Pingelly Community members who assisted WACHS in providing a facility to accommodate essential health services to the Community. This facility will replace the existing building with up to date medical technology, equipment and service delivery. The exact date of opening is to be determined by WACHS. Watch this space for the opening date and further media releases.

The second Project is the Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre (PRAAC) with construction progressing steadily. All the timber for this project is on site ready for erection and the finishing stages. The Recreation and Cultural Committee, consisting of councillors, shire staff and community members who were selected through expression of interest advertised via the Pingelly Times, are in the process of planning a positive future for the PRACC. There have been some very fruitful discussions with communities within the Wheatbelt that have similar centres that are being conducted successfully. The Recreation and Cultural Committee members are being guided through the process by Mr Peter Kenyon from Bank of Ideas to establish the appropriate fundamentals for the operation of the PRACC. Completion date for this project is around June 2018. The opening date is yet to be determined by Council so "Watch This Space" and media releases for the Grand Opening.

The third Project is the Pingelly Aged Appropriate Accommodation Units (PAAA) that are being located east of the new Medical Facility and facing the new street "Community Place". This new street will give access to the PAAA Units, Medical Health Facility, and entrance to the Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre, including the Sports complex and the Swimming Pool. The first 3 Units are in place and will be completed by the builders and established ready for occupancy. The remaining 2 units will be delivered within the coming weeks. Once all the units have been established, the construction of the Sensory Gardens will commence. It is anticipated that the Units will be ready for occupancy after the official opening date to be determined by Council later in 2018.

During 2017, the Shire participated in a voluntary program conducted by the Department of Local Government and Communities called Better Practice Review. As a result of that review the following statement was issued by the Department: "A cordial and productive working relationship exists between elected members and the administration; a relationship which is based on respect and a mutual desire to achieve positive results for the Shire's community".

The Australia Day Breakfast 2018 was a community event sponsored by the Shire of Pingelly. The event was well attended, with 138 guests enjoying a sumptuous breakfast capably

catered for by the Pingelly Volunteer SES Unit members. During this event the Community Person and Sports Person for 2017 was announced and presented. The winner of the Community Person Award was Mrs Sheree Blechynden for her commitment to the various organisations that she is involved in that assist the community to be a better place for us all. Congratulations to Mrs Blechynden for her outstanding contribution to community of Pingelly.

The Sportsperson Award was presented to Mrs Rheannon Turton for her commitment to the sporting fraternity of Pingelly, especially Tennis, Netball and Junior Tennis, encouraging the younger members of the community to engaged in sports activity. Congratulations to Mrs Turton for her achievements and commitment to the Community of Pingelly in the sports arena.

The Shire sponsored Thank a Volunteer event will be held in March in the Town Hall. This event recognises the contribution that volunteers give to their community in many various forms. Refer to the advertisement in the Pingelly Times and Shire News.

A first for the Shire of Pingelly will be the presentation of a 25 year WA Volunteer Service Award to Mr Peter Narducci for his commitment and service as a Justice of the Peace to the Community of Pingelly. This award will be presented prior to the February Council meeting being held on the 21 February at 10am in the council chambers. On behalf of Council and the community, I congratulate Mr Peter Narducci for his achievement and commitment that he has availed to the community of Pingelly.

In closing, Pingelly is a vibrant and cohesive community to be part of, and with positivity from the community it can only grow in strength.

W.V.Mulroney ESM
President.