

## President's Report



As I start this first report for 2022, I would like to thank and congratulate the special members of our community that were recognised at the Australia Day breakfast and ceremony. Volunteering is a wonderful way of contributing to others and creating a culture of acceptance and sharing. Without these people, many events and features

which make our community special would simply not take place. Over the years it has been a privilege to recognise the contributors to our Shire and to let them know that others have noticed what you are giving and to say thank you for the time you give in helping others in all facets of our lives. When nominations open later this year, please remember those who you see helping out and nominate them for recognition.

After quite a few delays and interruptions, it was great to see power finally connected to the public area at the weir. The three new electric barbecues are a nice feature complemented by lighting under the shelters and overhead. The weir is proving to be very popular and improvements in the future will only enhance the area for locals and visitors.

Over the January period our Shire was sad to see the departure of Officer in Charge Senior Sergeant Ross Blake. Ross served our community very well over the last few years and we wish him every success in his new position of Officer in Charge at the Mandurah Police station. Ross's replacement is Detective Sergeant Keith Tarver from the Midland Police district and he will be joining us at some stage in

February. I'm sure Keith will continue Ross's good work around community engagement and we look forward to welcoming him to our Shire soon.

The changes that we have all dealt with in the last two years have impacted our daily way of life and some of the very basic behaviours that we were used to. As a Local Government we have not been immune to the changing regulations as have all our business owners and sporting and charity organisations. While these changes have at times been enacted quickly, they have happened as a direct result of orders from the Health Department and the State Government in collaboration. While some may not be popular, we must all play a part in adhering to them as best we can. We will be entering into a period soon that other states have encountered and it will take patience and tolerance to get through to the other side. This virus in its various forms will be with us for a while so we must do what we can to look out for each other and deal with it together.

## Drakesbrook Weir Power Upgrades Complete

The Shire of Waroona is pleased to announce that the much-anticipated installation of power, along with new modern electronic barbecues and lighting at the Drakesbrook Weir, has been completed.

These upgrades will enhance the already naturally beautiful location for patrons to enjoy and the upgrade in lighting will improve safety at the area at night-time. The Shire hopes the residents and visitors of Waroona enjoy the new facilities at this spectacular location.

The Shire would like to thank all Shire personnel, contractors, Western Power, and private landowners for their assistance in this project.



Chief Executive Officer Mark Goodlet and Cr Mike Walmsley testing the new barbecues



The new lights at night-time at the Drakesbrook Weir

## Australia Day Celebrations 2022



The annual Waroona Australia Day Celebrations, held Wednesday 26 January at Memorial Hall, was blessed with good weather, a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere and plenty of exciting activities.

Guests were treated to a delicious cooked and continental breakfast, provided by the Leo's and Lions Club of Waroona, while enjoying some acoustic music by solo artist Alex Wayne.

Following breakfast, patrons gathered on the oval to enjoy an Australian Stock Dog Demonstrations, facilitated by Dave Lacey, Steve Wallace and their lovely assistant. On completion, the Just Cruisin Street Machiners, Emergency Service vehicles and Agricultural sector vehicles started their engines for the annual street parade. Adorned with Aussie flags, the entourage made their way through the centre of town, before looping back towards the event site.

It was at this point, the Shire President and Executive Assistant leapt into action to facilitate a quick citizenship ceremony for pregnant Mum Verity Gibson, before she was rushed off to hospital to welcome baby girl Quinn Jae Gibson into the world. From all accounts, Mum and bub are doing well.

Following the excitement, the crowd settled on the steps of the amphitheatre, for a very warm Welcome to Country by Rob Jetta, a haunting rendition of the National Anthem performed by vocalist Karen Godfrey and the flag raising ceremony, thanks to Waroona Aboriginal Corporation junior members and Waroona Volunteer & Emergency Services Cadets.

Councillor John Mason and President Mike Walmsley then moved forward to present the Australia Day Council WA Citizen of the Year Awards and the Shire of Waroona Meritorious Community Service Awards, acknowledging residents across the Shire who voluntarily contribute countless hours towards making the

community a better place to live.

The award recipients were announced as follows:

### Shire of Waroona Meritorious Award recipients

#### Under 25's:

- Zachary Audino

#### 25 years and over:

- Sarah Robertson
- Rod Davis
- Grace Pisconeri
- Donna Walmsley

### Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards

#### Australia Day WA Award for Active Citizenship – Community Group or Event:

- The Waroona Agricultural Society

#### Australia Day WA Citizen of the Year Award

- Noel Dew

Welcoming Robyn Clarke MLA to the stage, the Shire President proceeded to perform three additional citizenship ceremonies, with Daisy Brown, Davis Ramones Jr and John Villanueva becoming certified Aussies. Other activities enjoyed on the day, included face painting, kids arts and crafts, mini golf, a petting zoo and the much loved Lions train rides.

In conclusion, the national message 'we are all part of the story' was reiterated to the crowd. Australia Day is the day we come together to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate our diverse nation, promote the importance of reconciliation, and celebrate the contribution that every Australian makes.

We thank everyone who attended, supported and participated in the annual Waroona Australia Day Celebration for 2022, assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council.



Robyn Clarke MLA and Shire President Mike Walmsley with new citizens Davis Ramones Jr, John Villanueva and Daisy Brown.



New citizen Verity Gibson with Shire President Mike Walmsley

### Here are some highlights captured by #Josh Cowling Photography



## SHOW & TELL with ARTISTS & MAKERS At Waroona Visitor Centre & Gallery

Artists and makers will be on hand to demonstrate their various craft between 10am – 2pm on the following days so come along to watch them work and to have a chat.

### Saturday 19 February

Sandi Hepton – a variety of mixed media  
Polly Bonner - hyperbolic crochet, textile art  
Kathleen Cole - spinning & creating

### Saturday 26 February

Carmen Tyrer - wet & needle felting techniques  
Barb Bennett - knitting & crocheted mandalas  
Ren Theelen - photography & digital art

### Sunday 13 March

Sandi Hepton - a variety of mixed media  
Nola Turner - crochet, craft & charity dolls  
Kathleen Cole - spinning & creating from product

### Saturday 19 March

Alana Rainer - felting & wearable art  
Jeanette Audino - jewellery & beadwork  
Polly Bonner - hyperbolic crochet, textile art

Waroona Visitor Centre is open 9:30am-3:30pm daily with a gallery featuring the works of over 50 local and regional artists and makers.



Alana Rainer



Polly Bonner

Demonstrating artists and makers may alternate so please call 9733 1506 to confirm dates closer to the time if you are hoping to catch up with a particular creative.

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## Next Council Meeting

Next council meeting will be Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 4pm at the Waroona Council Chambers

**WAROONA VISITOR CENTRE**

Open 9:30am-3:30pm • 37 South Western Highway, Waroona  
Ph: 08 9733 1506 • email: visitorcentre@waroona.wa.gov.au