

Dwellingup Community Compact
Presidents Report. February 2016

Last year I remember making the comment that we took on projects commensurate with our small group. I believe this past year has been a turning point in part to some local faces that have recommitted to the ideals of the Compact and some new faces with fresh energy, ideas and enthusiasm. Also executive committee members have settled into roles with confidence and an ever increasing desire to improve our governance and administrative procedures. To this end we owe a big thanks to Chris Gray who has slowly but surely provided us with administrative stability lacking in the past.

The playground seat project was finalised and it must give us all great pleasure to see families sitting under the shade watching their children enjoy the playground. Currently as part of a number of projects our desire is to erect shade sails to further enhance the facility.

For a couple of years we have not been part of the Clean-up Australia Day. Greg Caswell took the bull by the horns or perhaps the bin by the handle last year and with great support from the Dwellingup Primary School and local volunteers and material assistance from ALCOA the day was a great success. This year the DCC with Greg's guidance again will commit to the day. As part of the same campaign and with a joint effort from Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah and Pinjarra Peel, Peel Trails Group, Mandurah-Murray Vietnam Veterans Group and Dwellingup Adventures we will also be taking on the litter removal of a section of the Murray River.

I can only say that as each day passes we get closer to the Street Pole Project. We continued to receive financial contributions from local sources and applied for a couple of grants. A \$1,500 grant application from the SOM Community Assistance Fund was successful but a \$5,000 application to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal was not successful. While the final amount is still a little fluid we have the capacity to erect about 8 Street Poles.

The web site goes from strength to strength and we were fortunate to receive the very generous offer from David Bolt to provide his web master services at no cost. This significant offer allows us to support the promotion of community events and services to a greater degree. David was elected to council this year and provides a sound voice of advocacy for Dwellingup. Working diligently behind the scenes and keeping our Events Calendar up to date we give a big thanks to Di Pickering. As the web site continues to gain prominence both as a community and business resource Chris Gray has become our direct link with David. This gives Chris a greater opportunity to co-ordinate web membership updates, banner insertion schedules and helps David so he does not get requests from multi persons.

We have a commitment to meet on a regular basis with Beth Butler from ALCOA. The recent occurrence of drilling exploratory testing holes some very close to private boundaries and in general close to the town site I believe will be a significant issue that will need to be addressed. Maintaining open and regular dialogue with ALCOA will be an important feature of any negotiations.

Our desire to nurture a collaborative and productive relationship with the Shire of Murray I believe has been reciprocated. Currently there is a desire from SOM to seek views on a number of matters both through the Compact and via public opportunity at town meetings. Dean Unsworth the Shire of Murray CEO has attended our meetings and has indicated a willingness to receive further invites. He has indicated to me personally he is very pleased and supportive of our organisation and the proactive manner we go about our business.

In March this year we applied through the Peel Development Commission for funding from the Community Chest Fund. The amount of \$20,000 was seen as a big step and a progressive move born from the catalyst of the World Class Trails Hub Strategy for WA. The successful application enabled the DCC to engage Australience Pty Ltd to initiate a Needs Analysis and Feasibility Study for a Concept Plan for Tourism Facilities in Dwellingup. John Cusack on behalf of Australience met on a regular basis with members of the Trails Group drawn from the DCC and SOM. On behalf of John I can thank the members of the group who guided, advised, contributed and supported the production of the final document now complete and officially handed to the SOM on Tuesday 2nd February this year. This is just the start and the report provides the potential for probably the biggest 'makeover' that Dwellingup has ever seen. The report was well received by Dean and I have to say John and I were well pleased with the positive response from Dean on behalf of the Shire. We are hopeful the report provides the basis for further significant funding to turn Dwellingup into a 'World Class Trails Hub'

While there have been numerous persons who have assisted sometimes my stumbling efforts over the year I would particularly like to thank Sue Fyfe. Sues analytical and professional assistance in a number of funding applications I applied for on behalf of the DCC was invaluable. Her guidance, time and experience was always given generously on both personal and Compact matters.

Our numbers on the executive committee were small but this is not reflected in the number of projects/issues we dealt with. We received great support from general membership and in fact a number of projects/events were driven successfully by general members.

I look forward to what promises to be a very exciting year for the Compact.

Peter White

