

# SHIRE NOTES



## Local Government Structural Reform

Despite conflicting media reports, Local Government Structural Reform, is still high on The State Government's agenda. Local Government Minister John Castrilli MLA, has given councils until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010 to respond to his request, for them to form what he calls "Regional Transition Groups." The purpose behind these Regional Transition Groups or RTG's is for Councils to reach an agreement on amalgamation and do the business planning to allow new amalgamated councils to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

The Shire of Tammin has conducted its investigations and is firmly of the view that if we don't take a pro-active stance to local government structural reform, then we will have reform forced on us. We believe that we will fare better off in choosing our own destiny rather than have someone else determine it for us.

Council is of the view that our future lies to the west and council has therefore resolved to advise the Minister that Tammin is prepared to be part of a Regional Transition Group that includes the Shires of Beverley, Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin and York. Being part of a larger council that will have a population of around 9000 people will enable Tammin to access regional funding from The Federal and State Governments that previously we have not qualified for.

In agreeing to be part of a RTG, Council has placed a number of conditions on its participation. The most important of these are that the Shire office will continue to be staffed so that local services such as licensing and library continue, that an outside workforce be retained in Tammin to maintain the roads, streets, parks, gardens and other facilities in town and that the Tammin Shire becomes a ward in any amalgamated Council with local representation being assured.

A large part of the process will be the formation of a business plan. This business plan will need to demonstrate that there will be no financial detriment to the ratepayers of Tammin. If the business plan shows that the cost to ratepayers will be too high then we can opt out of any amalgamation.

One of the major concerns that the Shire has is to ensure that rates in Tammin do not increase by an amount greater than what would be the case if Tammin was to remain a "Stand-alone Council." Ways to ensure this will be investigated as part of the business planning process. However, it is likely that this could be achieved through differential rating, which means that a different rate in the dollar could be struck for each of the Shires or Wards, as they will become.

Understandably all of the Shires participating share the same concerns, so we are sure that there will be concerted efforts to make sure that people's rates do not rise unnecessarily.

By being pro-active and getting in early we enable us to access State Government funding to help with the business planning. Should the business plan supports amalgamation funding will then assist with the costs of implementation of amalgamation. The aim will be to improve the services and facilities available to the residents of Tammin over the long term, while keeping the cost to ratepayers down.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Rodney Stokes on 042 937 1153 or 9637 1153, or any other councillor.

### **Extension of Restricted Burning Period**

The restricted burning period has been extended by 14 days and will now cease at Midnight on Monday 29th March 2010. Burning Permits will be required until that date and may be obtained by contacting one of the following fire control officers:

Haydn Dixon	Ph: 90 452 054	Mob: 0429 045 205
Shane Mackin	Ph: 96 381 027	Mob: 0428 381 027
Tim York	Ph: 96 371 134	Mob: 0427 737 113
Ray Reid	Ph: 96 381 072	Mob: 0418 941 850

Permits issued during this period will allow burning during daylight hours only. Burning is NOT permitted on days when Very High, Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger warnings are in place. All conditions placed on burning permits MUST be adhered to.

### **One Step Ahead - 10 April 2010**

Those of you that were around for the very successful launch of the Kadjiny Kep in 2005 may remember the brilliant show band One Step Ahead. The great news is One Step Ahead is performing at the Kep again on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010. One of Australia's most successful show bands, One Step Ahead, has been entertaining audiences of all ages for more than 17 years. The band's music includes everyone's favourite hits and their performance is packed with energy, slick harmonies, choreographed dance moves and instrument swapping. Tickets can be purchased via the Tammin Primary School P&C, Tammin Shire office or at the Tammin Post office or at the

### **The BIGROLL BBQ – 26 April 2010**

Correspondence has been received from the Sir Roden & Lady Cutler Foundation announcing a unique fund raising/awareness raising activity that involves pushing a manual wheelchair from Perth to Sydney. The project has been called BIGROLL which will commence just before Anzac day in Perth on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and finish up in Sydney in mid August to coincide with the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of World War 2. The plan is to cover the 4500 kilometer distance over a period of 110 days, travelling through Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. The Roll will be done with teams of volunteers organised in pairs and pushing/riding for about 2 hours each per day, with 5 teams operating each day (to cover approximately 45-50km per day). The BIGROLL convoy will arrive in Tammin on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April and it would be great if you could support this worthy cause by joining the convoy in a parade ending at the Donnan Oval where you will can enjoy a \$2.00 sausage sizzle. Cold drinks, crisps and lollies will also be on sale. Proceeds of the sausage sizzle will be donated to the Sir Roden & Lady Cutler Foundation. More info will be available in the next Tammin Tabloid.