

# SHIRE NOTES



## **Amalgamations Debate**

The Minister for Local Government and Regional Development has given local governments 6 months to advise him of their amalgamation intentions – with the statement *If you don't want to do it, I'll do it*. Whilst the Premier has since ruled out forced amalgamations, he has urged all local governments to voluntarily consider the process.

Council has appointed a Project Team of Rodney Stokes, Bernard Stokes and Stephen Jefferies to investigate options and report back to Council. Council has also requested the Project Team to have discussions with the Shire of Tammin's adjoining neighbours – Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Quairading and Wyalkatchem.

Council is also seeking membership with SEAVROC – made up of the Shires of Cunderdin Quairading, York, Beverley and Brookton.

## **Granite Way**

Progress is again being made with the Granite Way project – which exists under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Shires of Tammin, Quairading, Bruce Rock and Kellerberrin. The Granite Way's objective is to increase the tourism potential of our granite outcrops, including conservation of cultural and environmental values. The Granite Way Committee is working with CAN WA, who are documenting Aboriginal stories about the sites as a starting point cultural activities and also the National Trust of WA, who are seeking to create dreaming trails around the sites. The focus is on Mt Stirling, Mt Caroline and Kokerbin Nature Reserve.

## **Broadband Internet Services**

Telstra has advised that it has boosted the broadband service at the Tammin exchange to high-speed ADSL2+ broadband.

The ADSL2+ upgrades will provide download speeds of up to 20Mbps, which is up to 78 times faster than a standard 256kbps ADSL connection. As well as the speed benefits, families will be able to simultaneously use several devices at home at the one time more easily. Content can be delivered with greater reliability, which is important when some members of the family may be downloading work files, others downloading music or videos, while the kids are online researching for school projects.

To take advantage of these upgrades and improved services visit your nearest Telstra Shop or dealer or call 13 POND (13 7663). Existing BigPond® ADSL customers may also need to upgrade their modem.

For further information on any of these issues, please contact your local Councillor or the Staff at the Shire Office.

Mick Oliver, Chief Executive Officer