

The Stakeholders

John Gray

John Grey is a 33-year-old snarky, glib lawyer working in the shire. John is continually sarcastic and often displays much less enthusiasm for the Shire and its activities. Because of his background as a lawyer and his compelling personality, many people, living and working in the Shire, seek help from him. He enjoys being in positions of authority and acts as the effective leader of the group. He was involved with the accident that happened at last year's festival and was put out when Pud convinced them not to sue. He thinks the Festival is run by a group of 'do gooders' who have no real understanding of what is required to pull it off successfully. He was astounded when the announcement came through that it was to run again this year and he intends to keep a watchful eye on it. Might yet get some business out of it!

Julia Brown

Has lived in the Shire all her life or at least her home has been here to which she returns. She has two older brothers, one of whom works with children with some type of special disorder in a hospital. On her eleventh birthday an eager handed man in a dinosaur costume intruded in on her party at a restaurant. This event has haunted her into adulthood and so she has issues with strangers. She joined the Peace Corps, did some foot modelling, got teargassed at a World Trade rally and took an extended vacation in Africa. Realising she needed to do something with her life, Julia settled down in Pretty Hills and opened a very popular Art and Craft Academy. Unfortunately, it was revealed to a member of council that she was having severe financial difficulties with patronage dropping off at the Academy and so when the festival was approved, she was offered a prime stall location for her crafts.

Nadir Imran

Is a trilingual (English, Arabic, and Polish) Palestinian/Polish pop culture junkie who aspires to become a director. He recently took business classes to help run his father's falafel business and has virtually taken this over since his father's stroke five

months ago. While he has emotion and sympathy for his father and for Julia and her financial difficulties, he speaks with a rather detached and emotionless tone, as well as with a distinct straightforwardness lacking a mental filter, leading some of his friends to suspect he has Asperger's. He seems to be totally focused on growing the business and he will do whatever it takes to achieve his goals.

Trish Olle

Is a recently divorced mother of three who runs cooking classes out of her coffee shop which is open only on weekends (after church is finished) to catch the more lucrative passing sightseers. Trish is a devoted Christian and is very sweet but also has thinly veiled rage issues and gossips compulsively. She is proud to be a Torres Strait Islander and a woman but appreciates not being defined by those characteristics. She is very friendly to everyone, but sometimes has problems minding her own business or keeping secrets.

Mark Swag

Is a former high school football star who now heads up the Shire as the CEO. Born and raised in Pretty Hills he made a name for himself at the Geelong Football club, and was also quite a ladies' man. He injured himself during a particularly nasty fall which he has never recovered from. Forced to retire at 26 he travelled the world for a while and then moved back to Pretty Hills when his long-time school Andy offered him the job at the Shire. Mark studied architecture in between his footy career but never practiced nor gained his license and he knows little about Council management and business. He was made CEO because of who he was and so he must rely on those around him to advise and run the shire.

Eddie Maxwell

Is the CFO for Pretty Hills Shire and he resents and loathes Mark. He is very good at what he does and has found himself having to do not only his own job but Mark's as well. He is the 'go to' person in council if you want things done but the sheer weight of work pressure is getting to him and where he once was keen to see the Shire progress he now doesn't care and just wants to take the easy option so that he

doesn't get any more work falling on him. He is a gentle, non-assertive man however, in recent years he has become bitter. His wife left him six months ago claiming she never saw him and he didn't have time for his children. Since then he has been reassessing his life and work and is determined to decrease his workload. He has decided he will not support any new projects.

Bee Ontoit

Is the marketing manager for PHARF. She is a loud, dominating woman who expects and demands to get her own way. She is very good at what she does and her marketing skills, honed over more than 20 years are exceptional. She knows what she is doing but doesn't tolerate fools and she often finds it hard to work with council volunteers who mean well, but just don't understand what is required. She finds she works best by herself however, she has always worked well with Eddie whom she secretly admires. Like Eddie she detests Mark and has often been known to have screaming matches with him in the corridor so that everyone hears. She has a busy quarter ahead with next year's sponsors to be finalised and the marketing plan prepared for council endorsement in two months' time. She doesn't really have time to assist with the festival and feels Mark has put her on it so she will stuff something up. She is determined to succeed and so will do what she must to make sure the festival is a success.

Ima Bighand

Has been with the council all her life. She started as a volunteer way back in the 70's and she somehow fell into a customer service role – a role she has held on and off (she has four children) since then. She has never really been much good at administration. But has attended a couple of short courses run by the local TAFE.

Most of the time she staffs the customer service desk or collates the mail and things like that. The other girls in the office go out of their way to make sure she doesn't do any word processing or data entry and she always makes mistakes. She has a happy disposition and enjoys talking to rate payers.

Jeff Aaracnic

Is a journalist on the local who last year ran a story accusing the council of wasting rate payers' money, and criticising poor project management. He uncovered a plethora of problems and general rotting activities such as outside businesses running non-approved stalls on the streets, to avoid paying the contribution fee and the damaged goods worth thousands of dollars that were spoilt by the rain – despite the council guaranteeing they would provide adequate cover for just such an event. He is hard-nosed but fair. He thinks that Mark is an idiot and should be exposed and so is on the lookout for any negative publicity he can find. He has only recently moved to the area and other than the Church group he attends has no real friends nor allegiance to Pretty Hills.

Polly Ann

Runs the local post office and gift shop. Business has been getting worse over the past six months or so and she feels that the area really needs the exposure the festival will bring. She is extremely capable and very willing to help. She says what she means but works well with others and has a way with teams that always seems to get more out of them.

Elliot Price

Elliot owns the region's biggest vineyard and winery. Although the business is doing well and he has a couple of lucrative, long term contracts he is keen to grow his cellar door business and thinks the festival is one way of highlighting both the town and his winery. He served on the committee last year and was responsible for organising the stalls.

Jillian Call

Is the Council Environmental Health and Safety Officer and she had a number of concerns when she heard that Mark has approved the festival to run again this year. Although she wasn't here last year she read the report from the outgoing officer who pointed out that food was not being kept in the right conditions (i.e. not refrigerated and the hot food was only tepid, allowing bacteria to grow so a potential risk for health and safety). She is a reasonable person but when it comes to the rules she is a real stickler. She has vowed that nothing will get by her with this year's festival and to this end she wants to do a final audit two hours prior to the opening.

Pud Murray

Has been the fire and safety advisor for council for a number of years. Last year at the festival an old lady tripped and fell on an extension cord running temporary power to a stall and he spent the next six months working with her family and trying to convince them not to sue. While he was finally successful it took a lot out of him and, he knew that if they had gone ahead and sued he would have lost his job. He is certainly not going to let that happen again and intends to make sure there is an

OHS plan and audit prior to the festival commencing and he himself will conduct spot audits throughout the Festival. He also wants to insist on all stakeholders receiving training.

He is quite a timid, shy man but this episode terrified him and so he intends to do all he can to ensure it doesn't occur again. If he had it his way he would have cancelled the festival.

Mary Jane Hadone

Is the Chairwoman of the county women's association (CWA) who last year provided afternoon tea in a huge tent. She is keen to be involved in the festival again as this is by far their biggest fund raiser netting in excess of \$5,500. She is an organised, capable woman who has a large team of equally capable ladies and supporters helping her. She is confident that they can improve on last year's figure and just wants to be left alone to organise her team.

Tim Westlake

Is the Bank Customer Service Manager. He knows almost everyone in the Shire and believes that the festival is a great way to bring people into the Shire. Last year he was put out because no-one bothered to seek his advice with regard to cash reserves and banking requirements and so, a day before the festival his bank was put into a spin when 60 store holders raided the bank wanting to exchange their notes for coins. Of course, he wasn't able to satisfy them all which meant that a large number of very unhappy customers had to make the 200km round trip to Culdon to get the change they needed. This resulted into a number of letters to the Bank and then a 'please explain' meeting with his manager that was extremely unpleasant. So, this year he intends to offer his services to the planning group and be involved so that there are no more surprises in store for him or his bank.

Ali Khan

Is the bandmaster. Last year the local band played throughout the festival and received really good publicity and feedback so, this year he wants to increase their

exposure even more. He has a lot of good ideas that he wants to put to the festival organiser but he doesn't have the time to be on the committee. The only issue he had with last year's committee was the communication. He found that he didn't really know what was going on and no one checked things with him. For example, if anyone had bothered to discuss the location of the last band appearance on the Sunday he could have told them that the church bells start ringing at the time they had planned so that they could have placed the band down the other end or changed the time. As it was he just changed the time to 15 minutes later, but it was annoying for some patrons who had referred to their program and weren't sure why the holdup occurred.