

PAUL WESTON



Election fog lifting as new lines drawn

THE boundaries for council divisions have been finalised for the poll in March next year.

Candidates are suddenly appearing at council meetings. Who is running and where? Alec Pokarier, former junior chamber of commerce leader and young LNP identity, introduces himself at the Evandale foyer as the gallery is emptied for a closed session. He will be standing in Division 1 in the city's north.

Council insiders said Division 1 councillor Donna Gates would switch to Division 3. However, that changed late this week with talk the Deputy Mayor was reconsidering, to stay in Division 1. In Division 2 nothing much changes, including the boundaries. William Owen-Jones is yet to hear of an opponent. In Division 3, there are unconfirmed reports of a male resident standing.

Division 4 is the likely stand-off between current Division 3 councillor Cameron Caldwell and Division 4 councillor Kristyn Boulton. Neither is talking about their political future.

In Nerang and Pacific Pines, Division 5 Councillor Peter Young remains unopposed so far.

But Division 6, belonging to veteran Dawn Crichlow, who will likely retire, will be hotly contested. Financial planner and Benowa State School former P&C leader Brooke Patterson is in campaign mode.

The boundary changes mean most of the homes that she doorknocked last time around in the Division 7 campaign are in this new division.

"It is great to have the boundaries finalised," Ms Patterson says. "I knew I wanted to serve my community where my family have lived and worked for three generations. Now I can start



Gold Coast City Council candidate Brooke Patterson will run in the newly aligned Division 6.

doorknocking and hearing issues and ideas from as many residents as possible."

She estimates the new Division 6 is home to about 55 per cent of voters from the old Division 7 area held by veteran Gary Baildon, who will retire.

Cr Baildon's Division 7 now includes the suburbs of Labrador, Arundel, Parkwood, Molendinar and the surrounds, along with Westfield Helensvale.

Labrador resident and experienced political and community campaigner Wendy Coe, also at the council chamber, is the only candidate to surface so far in that division.

"I've just been appointed Neighbourhood Watch area co-ordinator in Labrador," she says.

"When I was the co-ordinator of Rosies I had a lot to do with

many families in the area." Bob La Castra has been in Division 8 since bananas wore pyjamas. He is overseas and speculation continues about retirement.

Further south and west across the M1, Cr Glenn Tozer is waiting to learn of any opponent. Several council watchers keep suggesting the mayor's chief of staff Wayne Moran, a long-term resident, will put his hand up. Mischievous bunch, aren't they?

Who will oppose Hermann "Robocop" Vorster in Robina? They will need a policy platform that extends to abandoned trolleys and drug gangs. Tough gig.

In Burleigh, councillor Pauline Young faces the toughest choice—her new Division 12 does not include her much-loved coastal village. To retain it, she must run

against Palm Beach's Daphne McDonald and tram opposition. In Division 14, Gail O'Neill is yet to face an opponent.

Which leaves the main game, the mayoralty where in Australia's sixth-biggest city, seven months out from a poll, businessman Brett Lambert, in black suit and tie, is the only candidate attending every full council meeting wanting Tom Tate's chair.

The only other likely starter at this point is health writer Mona Hecke, keeping her options open on a division or the big prize.

Meanwhile, out west, is that a shot being fired? What about the campaign slogan "Moran for Mudgeeraba"? Not quite serial drama *West Wing* but a helluva lot more entertaining than watching its President Jed Bartlet and the team on cable TV repeats.

TOP COP EAGER TO REGAIN 'TALENT TIME'

NEW Queensland Police Commissioner Katrina Carroll recently made an unannounced visit to the Glitter Strip.

Police sources suggest part of the reason was her disappointment at discovering the Queensland Law Society's Bill Potts and Coomera MP Michael Crandon had appeared as "talent" on a television interview about crime. Where was the local police spokesperson?

Police reporters confirm there is more chance of spotting a Yowie in the Hinterland than a media release giving the time for a police presser at headquarters in Surfers Paradise.

What does not help is the city's police chief, Marty Mickelson, having missed the cut for a new Assistant Commissioner's job, remains up in Brisbane and unlikely to return before taking retirement.

ANGRY TITAN CALLS OUT 'ASH BASHERS'

THE most honest and logical explanation about the toll of the Titans' horror season has been written by hooker Nathan Peats, during which he touches on the impact of social media and television commentary about the form of Ash Taylor.

In the PlayersVoice, Peats writes: "You can't really kick a kid much more. He's already down, not playing well, taking leave from the game for mental reasons, and they're just spraying him on TV. Let it go a bit."

At a recent home game, Taylor, dressed casual, fronted the fans at Cbus Stadium and happily signed autographs. It took some front, more than the warriors who hide behind keyboards with their cheap shots.

MAYOR'S EX-STAFFER RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

AFTER leaving council, the Mayor's former communications man Warwick Sinclair kept running.

He ran 14km in the City2Surf in Sydney last Sunday and was fifth in his age group of more than 4000 in the field, beating marathon great Steve Monaghan. Sinclair will compete in the World Ironman Championships in Hawaii on October 12.

Then the 55-year-old former council press officer will run in the New York Marathon on November 3. All of this to help disadvantaged youth learn the sport of rugby - so while he's running please donate at <https://support.playrugbyusa.com/fundraiser/2219022>.



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