

## Denmark growth zone

Opportunities to open up in new light industrial area

Denmark is set to gain a new light industrial area located east of the town, expanding opportunities for existing businesses and new enterprises.

On Friday 4 March, Regional Development Minister Terry Redman announced \$7.6 million in funding for the Denmark East Development Precinct through the Growing Our South initiative, which is made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

Mr Redman said the \$14.3 million Denmark East project would provide multiple benefits to the south coast community.

"Current light industrial land in Denmark is now at capacity, which limits the opportunities available to local businesses," Mr Redman said.

"Opening up land east of the Denmark River near the intersection of McIntosh Road and South Coast Highway, providing 60 lots for light industry, will create possibilities for existing business operators and for new enterprises.

"A huge side benefit of the project is the associated road works, including a new bridge across the Denmark River, will establish an alternative access route that will be a critical asset for Denmark in case of fire or emergency," Mr Redman said.

South Coast Highway is currently the only road link through Denmark for east-west traffic, leaving the town vulnerable to being cut off by bush fires or road closures.

A project business case prepared for the Shire of Denmark, in consultation with the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), aligned with the *Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint*.

GSDC Chair Peter Rundle said the business case assessed the project as providing strategic benefits for Denmark and surrounds.

"Transport links and industrial hubs



*Regional Development Minister Terry Redman led a visit to the Denmark East light industrial area site in March. From left: GSDC Deputy Chair Ross Thornton, Mr Redman, and Shire of Denmark representatives President David Morrell, Deputy President Kelli Gillies and Acting Chief Executive Officer Cliff Frewing.*

are identified in the Blueprint as key infrastructure enabling the continuing growth of the Great Southern," Mr Rundle said.

"Business proprietors will welcome the opportunity to establish new premises to grow their enterprises.

"The economic benefit of this initiative is complemented by the significant community safety benefit of alternative road access, enhancing the strategic advantages of the investment," Mr Rundle said.

The project business case identified a number of existing business operators ready to take up lots in the precinct, sufficient to account for much of the project's first stage of 15 lots.

Construction of the 42ha Denmark East precinct is expected to start in 2017 and businesses are expected to start operating in the new light industrial area in 2018.

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# Production crew share film insights

Denmark residents' questions answered

South coast residents have been invited into the world of feature films through an instructive and interactive series of question and answer sessions in Denmark with production crew from the movie *Breath*.

*Breath* is directed by Simon Baker, star of *The Mentalist*, and is based on Tim Winton's award-winning novel of the same name.

Mr Baker also takes the movie's lead role as experienced surfer Sando, who befriends and challenges two younger surfers.



*Production designer Steven Jones-Evans reveals the intricacies behind location selections and set design.*

The production is supported by \$1.5 million in Royalties for Regions funding secured through the GSDC, and \$800,000 through ScreenWest.

Much of the filming will take place in Denmark in the coming months.

Production designer Steven Jones-Evans

kicked off the five-part series on Saturday 5 March at Tea House Books in Denmark.

Mr Baker addressed a packed audience at the Denmark Civic Centre on Sunday 13 March.

Asked about the challenge of directing and acting in the same production, Mr Baker said film directors were asked 'a million questions' a day.

"When you're acting and directing, it's as if there are ten less people you have to talk to because the actor understands the director, and the director understands the actor," Mr Baker said.

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## Changes for GSDC Board

Board Chair moves on, new member appointed

Katanning farmer and businessman Peter Rundle has resigned from his position as Chair of the GSDC Board, effective as of 1 April, 2016.

Mr Rundle has served on the Board since 2009, first as a Board member and subsequently as Chair.

Mr Rundle's resignation as Board Chair follows his recent pre-selection as a National Party candidate for the seat of Roe.



*Outgoing Board Chair Peter Rundle*

Deputy Chair Ross Thornton will be the Acting Chair of the Board pending the appointment of a new Chair.

GSDC CEO Bruce Manning said the Commission had benefited greatly from Mr Rundle's time as Chair of the Board.

"Peter's terms as Chair covered the

introduction and implementation of the Royalties for Regions program and the development of the Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint," Mr Manning said.

"His leadership and contributions, particularly from the perspective of his



*New Board member Ronnie Fleay*

membership of the WA Regional Development Trust, are well appreciated."

Kojonup Shire President Ronnie Fleay has been appointed to the GSDC Board. Regional Development Minister Terry Redman approved Cr Fleay's appointment as a local government representative in March. Her Board term will expire on 30 June 2019.

Cr Fleay was elected President of the Shire of Kojonup in November 2013. She was formerly the President of the Shire of Exmouth.

Cr Fleay is a member of the Western Australian Planning Commission and her experience includes chairing the Board of the Gascoyne Development Commission.

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## Groups seize grants opportunity

### Projects put forward for consideration

Community groups, local governments and service organisations have seized the opportunity to apply for grants in two GSDC funding rounds that are set to support projects that will build the Great Southern.

Round five of the Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) and round two of the Community Chest Fund (CCF), both made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, were announced in

December and applications opened on Monday 11 January.

Applications for the CCF closed at the start of March and the RGS closed in mid-March. The GSDC received 40 applications for CCF grants, requesting more than twice the total \$556,000 available funds.

By the deadline, the GSDC received 32 requests for RGS grants, requesting more

than three times the \$1.556 million allocated to the program. RGS grants are for amounts from \$50,001 to \$300,000.

On completion of the assessment and approval processes, the successful applicants will be notified and a list of the grants for each program will be posted on the GSDC website at [www.gsdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gsdc.wa.gov.au).

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## Triple gain for mobile users

### Three Great Southern base stations activated

Mobile phone coverage is continuing to expand in the Great Southern through the \$45 million Regional Telecommunications Project (RTP), as Commerce Minister Michael Mischin officially launched three new mobile phone base stations on Wednesday 2 March.

At a function at the Albany West tower, Mr Mischin said towers at Albany West, Cranbrook West and Ongerup North were now active, improving coverage for local residents and travellers.

The three towers are among 23 RTP sites in Western Australia due to be activated by June 2016.

Five of the 23 are in the Great Southern, including a tower in Nyabing that was launched in October 2015 and one in Peaceful Bay that is expected to be activated mid-2016.

Mr Mischin said that the RTP, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, will combine with the \$100 million Commonwealth Government Mobile Black Spot Program and Telstra works to provide 153 towers to be completed in the next tranche.

"That is going to be a massive increase in the coverage in regional areas and have its benefits flow through not only to people's amenity and quality of life to feel a part of the broader world, but also advantages for



*Celebrating the coverage at the Albany West base station, from left, Telstra Countrywide Area General Manager Boyd Brown, GSDC Deputy Chair Ross Thornton, Commerce Minister Michael Mischin and Minister for Racing and Gaming Colin Holt.*

business, improve the opportunities for farmers and improve access to emergency and other necessary government services," Mr Mischin said.

GSDC Deputy Chair Ross Thornton said the Commission had worked with the Department of Commerce to develop priorities for telecommunications in the region.

Mr Thornton said people in the areas served by the towers would appreciate the

improvements in phone and emergency services coverage.

RTP funding includes a condition that new installations will provide for the addition of emergency services communications.

A schedule for a further 128 mobile base stations, including 25 in the Great Southern, is on the Industry and Innovation page at [www.commerce.wa.gov.au](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au).

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## Conference looks to the future

Great Southern opportunities in the spotlight

A capacity audience filled the Kalyenup Room at the Albany Entertainment Centre on Tuesday 16 February for the Future of the Great Southern Conference.

GSDC Chair Peter Rundle opened the conference with an outline of the Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint as a strategic guide for the region.

Mr Rundle welcomed the 180-strong audience's participation in a conference on the future of the Great Southern, and he invited those present to also attend October's Sustainable Economic Growth in Regional Australia conference.

In the keynote address, Regional Development Minister Terry Redman outlined the history of the Royalties for Regions program since it was established in 2008.

Mr Redman said the early focus of the program was on filling gaps in services and infrastructure in regional areas but it was evolving a focus on unlocking the potential of the regions.



*Regional Development Minister Terry Redman delivered the keynote address at the CEDA conference.*

"Rather than focus on the disadvantage, focus on the opportunities," Mr Redman said.

"The pathway we're taking to do that is the regional investment blueprints. They are now embedded in our State planning policies."

Mr Redman said the drivers of the Great Southern economy were agriculture and tourism.

Topics addressed by subsequent speakers included community development, infrastructure, future industries, and innovation and future opportunities.

Speakers included representatives from Landcorp, Western Power, Brookfield Rail, Milne Agrigroup, Ferngrove Wines, Tourism Western Australia, and the Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia.

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## Call for speakers on regional growth

SEGRA builds October program

Australia's premier national conference on sustainable regional growth is calling for speakers for its upcoming Albany and Great Southern conference.

Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> annual national conference in this region from 26 to 28 October 2016.

The overarching theme of the conference is 'Naturally Stronger Regions: Realising the Potential'.

Conference content is expected to include a focus on the factors that enable regions to transform their natural assets and drive growth while retaining local values associated with environment and lifestyle.

SEGRA's call for speakers, at [www.segra.com.au](http://www.segra.com.au), says that preference will be given to contributions about applied regional economic development, drawing out key considerations for applications in multiple regions.

Possible subject areas include: regional policy; diversity, specialisation and creativity; sustainability of land, water and community; and regional hubs and nodes.

Speakers may also address topics such as aviation, free trade agreements, or innovation, technology and entrepreneurship in the regions.

Potential contributors must submit abstracts by Friday 27 May. Details of the

conference program will be published after speaker selections take place in June.

The program will include keynote presentations, panel discussions, spotlight sessions, master classes and best practice case studies. The conference program will also provide opportunities for delegates to take in study tours into the Great Southern.

SEGRA selected Albany and the Great Southern as the conference location following a bid coordinated by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) in a 17-strong partnership that included local governments, educational institutions and regional agencies.

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# Skaters set festival on a roll

Snake Run draws crowd to opening event

Albany's fabled Snake Run skateboard track, now heritage-listed, set the scene for a successful Great Southern Festival in 2016.

On Saturday 13 February, a 2,000-strong crowd gathered to watch an exciting skateboard event followed by a creative festival opening including dance, skaters and live music.

US skateboard legend Russ Howell revisited the 40-year-old track that he famously conquered in 1976 riding a skateboard in a handstand position.

Skateboarder Aussie Taylor thrilled the crowd by landing a last-gasp win in the skate competition.

Festival events that followed in February, and the cinema program to the middle of March, drew crowds of patrons to theatre, music, talks and film.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Winton Marsalis, co-presented with the festival by the GSDC and the Perth Theatre Trust, sold out the Albany Entertainment Centre in just ten days.

Actor Jonny Donahoe involved audience members in four performances of *Every Brilliant Thing*, a humorous, touching and life-affirming play about depression.



*Skater Aussie Taylor (above) landed a winning trick in the last segment of the skate competition, after which dancers performed in the Snake Run (right).*

Writers entertained and inspired in a program that touched on poetry, natural history, sustainability and science fiction.

Luthiers displayed the tools and techniques of handcrafting fine stringed instruments, including a lap-steel guitar crafted on a skateboard deck that paid tribute to the Snake Run opening.

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## Events promote sustainability

Events build lifestyle awareness

Sustainable living is on the minds of many in March and April as the GSDC-supported Green Skills Sustainability Festival delivers a host of events focused on ecologically and socially responsible lifestyles.

GSDC CEO Bruce Manning officially opened the festival at Orana Cinema on Wednesday 2 March.

Mr Manning said the Great Southern had opportunities to build on strong environmental values in areas such

as renewable energy and wastewater recycling.

The Sustainability Festival runs until early April.

A steady crowd of visitors attended the Sustainability Expo on Saturday 19 March to look over the latest information in home energy efficiency, water recycling and transport alternatives.

Eco-friendly vehicles drawing attention

at the expo included the remarkable all-electric Tesla.

Events, workshops and activities in the Sustainability Festival program cover topics such as gardening, recycling, bicycle repair, weed management and sustainable house design.

The program is available online through [www.festival.greenskills.org.au](http://www.festival.greenskills.org.au).

Contact: Linsey McFarlane, ph. 9842 4888

## Quick build for Men's Shed

### Group gains purpose-built premises

A purpose-built men's shed sprang up on a site off Sanford Road during February and March.

After more than a decade of patient preparation, the new premises of the Albany Men's Shed was erected in a matter of weeks and is set to open in April.

The \$800,000 men's shed project is supported by a \$20,000 Royalties for Regions Community Chest Fund grant through the GSDC, along with \$550,000 through Lotterywest and \$50,000 through the Jack Family Trust.

Albany MenShed Chairman Mike Taylor said the organisation's committee looked forward to the advantages of having a dedicated premises.

Albany MenShed was established in 2005 and was formerly housed in Albany Agricultural Society premises at Centennial Park.

Mr Taylor said the 500 sq m premises has a function space and a machinery area, separated by a soundproof wall.

Mr Taylor said members of the men's shed gave practical help to the community on a scale that would not compete with local trades people.



*Albany Menshed committee members visited the site during construction to check the progress of the new Men's Shed. From left: Secretary Kevin Richardson, Treasurer Peter Hilditch and President Mike Taylor.*

"We made 12 picnic tables for the City of Albany for the campervan and motorhome show," Mr Taylor said. "They are now distributed all around Albany in various parks."

The Albany MenShed has also made items for the Albany Hospice, the Freemasons and Hawthorn House, among others.

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## Medal assessment begins

### Award ceremony in May

An assessment panel is due to begin the selection process for the 2016 GSDC Medal.

The medal is awarded every two years by the GSDC to celebrate best practice in the management of natural resources in the region.

Nominations for the 2016 award closed on Wednesday 17 February and reflected the diversity of work in this field.

Following the preparation of a shortlist of

three, the nominations will be assessed in interviews and site visits.

The GSDC established the award in 2001, following the official opening of the Centre for Excellence in Natural Resource Management.

Since then, eleven medals have been awarded.

Recipients have included environmental educators, research scientists, farm innovators and community leaders.

The 2016 medallist will receive a total \$12,000 grant from the GSDC to further his or her work in natural resource management. The other two finalists will each receive a \$2,000 grant.

The 2016 GSDC Medal will be awarded at a presentation dinner at Carlyle's Function Centre in Albany on Friday 27 May. To register your interest for tickets, please contact the GSDC on 9842 4888.

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## Taste tempts food fans

Helicopter, junkyard feature in 2016 program

A gourmet feast in a junkyard and a helicopter ride to an island picnic are among the enticing events in the 2016 IGA Taste Great Southern program.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning officially opened the 2016 round of the popular food and produce festival at an event in Denmark on Wednesday 16 March.

Mr Manning said a sense of pride in Great Southern wine and produce had led the GSDC to support the development of Taste Great Southern from its inception in 2004.

"The Commission is determined that more people should know about the attractions and wonders of the Great Southern, and events like Taste help to make that happen," Mr Manning said.

"The GSDC continues to support Taste



*Chef Anna Gare and Denmark Tourism CEO Justine Nagorski were at the launch of Taste Great Southern 2016 in Denmark.*

and we were also pleased to see the event gain three years of Royalties for Regions funding support through Tourism WA's Regional Events Program.

"Three-year funding support for an event shows a high degree of confidence in

the strength of the concept and in the organisation behind it," Mr Manning said.

Taste 2016 runs until Sunday 3 April and features degustation dinners, a seafood night market in Albany, wine and food matching, and a dinner at the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk. Participating chefs this year include Colin Fassnidge, Tobie Puttock, Riki Kaspi and Samantha Gowing.

The junkyard feast, at Wilson's Machinery in Torbay on Saturday 26 March, featured Anna Gare, Scott Brannigan, David Coomer and Martin Morgan cooking on a huge wood-fired barbecue created from a bulldozer blade and a railway sliding crane.

Skyhook Helicopters took picnickers to Breaksea Island for food by Fervor on Thursday 24 March.

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## Katanning flies multicultural pride

Flags display rich mix of living cultures

Visitors entering Katanning via Clive Street now have a colourful reminder of the town's rich mix of cultures.

Flags of 19 nations were unfurled at the Lions Park on Friday 18 March as part of a GSDC-supported project by the Katanning Action Network (KAN).

Supported by a \$15,036 grant through the GSDC's Community Chest Fund, made possible by the Royalties for Regions program, the flag project is part of a larger KAN community building exercise.

KAN held workshops to build community confidence and set up the flag project. The project was also supported by the Shire of Katanning, and the workshops drew the support of Bankwest and Rural Youth.

KAN Chair Andrea Salmond said the project celebrated living cultures in Katanning.

"It celebrates the diversity of the food we

cook, the festivals we share, the music we make, the language we speak and connections to place we have across the world," Ms Salmond said.

The 19 national flags flying at the park are: Aboriginal, Australia, Burma, Italy, Wales, Cocos Islands, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, United Kingdom, Ireland, England, New Zealand, Scotland, Thailand, China, Afghanistan, Burundi, Karen.

GSDC Chair Peter Rundle welcomed the flag display.

"As a local resident, it gives me a great sense of pride to know that Katanning's special qualities will be on display through these flags," Mr Rundle said. "Embracing the contributions of other cultures makes communities stronger, and that is a great outcome from the GSDC's point of view."

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*The flag of Burundi flies in Katanning.*

# Bowling club toasts progress

Ceremony marks completion of building shell

A German poem and a toast of schnapps marked a March milestone in the construction of a new clubhouse at the Denmark Riverside Club.

O'Connor MHR Rick Wilson and Regional Development Minister Terry Redman joined club members for the ceremony, which was based on an old German tradition of 'topping out' a building when the shell of the structure is complete.

Construction of the \$2.2 million building is made possible with \$200,000 in funding through the State Government's Royalties for Regions program in the GSDC's Regional Grants Scheme.

The project is also supported by a Commonwealth Government Community Development Grant, Lotterywest and the Shire of Denmark.



*Toasting progress at the Denmark Riverside Club were, from left, architect David Gibson, club president Alan Robertson, Shire of Denmark Principal Environmental Health Officer Robert Ohle, architect Melanie Hoessle and construction manager James Wearing, of Smiths Constructions.*

Club president Alan Robertson acknowledged the support of the GSDC and the work of PTX Architects and builders Smith Constructions.

PTX principal architect David Gibson said the project was about 40 per cent complete and would soon move into the fit-out stage.

Mr Gibson explained the environmental values of the design, which includes solar passive features such as double glazing and double-stud walls for thicker insulation.

"It's double glazed, but thermally broken as well, which is about the highest-performing aluminium glazing you can get," Mr Gibson said.

The clubhouse features a 200-seat function area that will be available for hire by social, arts,

local government and sporting groups, contributing to the sustainability of the club.

Other facilities include a kitchen, bar, administration offices, toilet and shower block, storage space and parking.

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