

Grants bring opportunity

Groups apply for new funding

Community groups, public agencies and not-for-profit organisations are awaiting the outcome of contestable funding applications in two GSDC grant programs.

A fourth round of the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) closed on Thursday 11 December. The scheme provided the opportunity to apply for grants from \$20,001 to \$300,000.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$1.1 million supports the scheme and associated administration costs.

A new Community Chest Fund (CCF) provided the opportunity for community groups, agencies and not-for-profit organisations to apply for grants up to \$20,000. Royalties for Regions funding of \$370,000 was set aside for this component.

The first cut-off date for CCF grants was Thursday 20 November.

A significant number of applications were

received and are being assessed. GSDC Board recommendations for grant approvals will be collated and forwarded to the Minister for Regional Development.

Visit www.gsdc.wa.gov.au for updates on the approvals and for details of possible further opportunities to apply for CCF grants (subject to the availability of funds).

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the two programs offered significant opportunities for groups and communities in the Great Southern.

"Previous rounds of the Regional Grants Scheme have made great contributions to the region," Mr Rundle said.

"Tourism has benefited from projects like the Munda Biddi Trail extension and the Discovery Bay project, seniors have better living options through a number of projects, sporting facilities have been improved across the region and the major Science Building project at UWA has tangible benefits for

research and understanding of the natural environment.

"I also welcome the opportunity for smaller projects to gain support through the Community Chest Fund.

"Every regional resident knows that a relatively small project at a local facility can make a big difference to those who live and work in the Great Southern," Mr Rundle said.

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• See also pages 4 and 5



Extending the Albany Surf Life Saving Club was one of the major projects funded through previous rounds of the Regional Grants Scheme. For a retrospective of the scheme in the Great Southern, see pages 4 and 5.

inside this issue:

World premiere for festival	2
New GSDC Deputy Chairman	3
Public responds to Blueprint	3
Future date	3
Grants build region	4, 5
Doors open for dementia care	6
Holiday bus ready to roll	6
Bremer 'glamping' concept	7
Sheep centre for Katanning	7
English language learners	8

World premiere for festival

Great Southern program launched

A world premiere is included in the 2015 Great Southern Festival program of Perth Festival events set to attract regional audiences in February and March.

The Australian String Quartet will perform a program including Haydn, Shostakovich and the new work called Gallipoli, a Ross Edwards composition inspired by the Anzac story.

Artistic director Jonathan Holloway presented the Great Southern Festival program to guests at the Albany Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 3 December.

The Great Southern Festival starts with a welcome to country at the Museum of WA – Albany on Sunday 15 February and runs to Wednesday 4 March. The film program extends to Thursday 19 March.

Mr Holloway said the Great Southern program was 'celebratorially different' to the Perth program.

"There is a huge difference between the Great Southern and Perth and we wanted to celebrate those differences," Mr Holloway said. "We have two festivals: Perth is steel and glass, Albany is wood and stone."

Mr Holloway said he had never seen an event quite like the Great Southern Festival, citing the Playmakers program as a unique contribution developed in the region.

While promoting the Great Southern event, Mr Holloway also lauded the highly-anticipated Perth performance of Giants, which takes in elements of Albany author Dianne Wolfer's book Lighthouse Girl and references the Anzac story.

The GSDC met with members of the French company behind Giants in the lead-up to



Perth Festival artistic director Jonathan Holloway urges excitement about the Great Southern Festival program at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

the decision to bring the performance to Perth and highlighted the significance of Albany and Breaksea in the Anzac history.

Mr Holloway invited Great Southern residents to attend Giants in Perth from February 13 to 15.

GSDC Manager Community and Corporate Christine Grogan said the GSDC's longstanding support for the Great Southern Festival helped to promote economic and social development in the Great Southern.

"The Great Southern Festival helps to provide an energy and vibrancy to our region that make it a natural choice for opportunity and lifestyle," Ms Grogan said.

The GSDC helped to set up the festival in 2003, in partnership with the Perth International Arts Festival and the University of Western Australia. The Commission is the festival's Great Southern Principal Partner.

Ms Grogan said festival features such as the Playmakers program helped to nourish creative enterprise in the region. In 2015, the Playmakers program will focus on Celtic music, with three international performances and a variety of workshops.

The festival program also features Irish actor Bryan Burroughs performing Beowulf: The Blockbuster, a one-man play that has received glowing reviews in Dublin, New York and Edinburgh.

A three-day writers festival program includes, among others, US authors Joanna Rakoff and Miranda Richmond Mouillot, and Australia's Kim Scott, Jim Everett and Wayne Macauley.

Twelve festival films will be presented in the cinema program from Monday 2 February to Thursday 19 March, featuring movies from New Zealand, Israel, Argentina/Brazil and Europe.

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GSDC festive season closure

GSDC offices in Albany and Katanning will close for the Christmas break at 5pm on Wednesday 24 December, and reopen at 8.30am on Monday 5 January.

Board and staff members wish all project partners and supporters the compliments of the season and look forward to continuing working together in 2015.

New GSDC Deputy Chairman

Denmark Shire President takes up role

Longstanding GSDC Deputy Chairman Kim Barrow has completed his terms of appointment to the Board of the Commission.

Denmark Shire President Ross Thornton has joined the Board as a community appointment, and takes up the position of Deputy Chairman.

Mr Barrow was first appointed to the GSDC Board in February 2009, and became deputy chairman in August 2009. At the end of his three-year term, he was reappointed to the Board for a further three years and continued to hold the position of Deputy Chairman.

Cr Thornton is a qualified town planner



Departing GSDC Deputy Chairman Kim Barrow (left) and new Deputy Chairman Ross Thornton (right).

and registered builder, has been involved in property development and is currently farming.

He is a member of the WA Planning

Commission and sits on several Shire of Denmark committees.

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle welcomed Cr Thornton to the Board and thanked Mr Barrow for his years of service.

"Kim Barrow has been a dedicated member of the GSDC Board and his contributions to the Commission are greatly appreciated," Mr Rundle said.

"While we will miss Kim, we certainly welcome Ross Thornton to the Board and I look forward to the perspectives and skills that he will contribute."

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Public responds to draft Blueprint

Document in final stages

Development of the Great Southern Regional Blueprint, a primary strategic planning guide for the region, has moved into its final stages.

Work on the Blueprint has been in process for two years, during which it has been subject to an extensive program of review and comment.

For two months from Friday 29 August to Friday 31 October, the draft Blueprint was open for public comment, drawing 23 responses. More than 500 users have downloaded a copy of the draft Blueprint from the GSDC website and many have also downloaded the smaller Blueprint Overview and the brief Blueprint Snapshot.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the feedback received would contribute to the development of the final version of the document.

"We are now reviewing the draft version of the document in the light of the latest feedback," Mr Manning said. "We will then present a revised version to the Minister for Regional Development and a final version will be released upon Ministerial approval.

"A great many people have been involved in the development of the Blueprint, including members of the public in the most recent consultation process, government agencies, the Great Southern's eleven local governments, many of the GSDC's project partners and a range of others from private enterprise, community groups and not-for-profit organisations.

"We are grateful for the time and energy that everyone has contributed to making it a document that will guide development in

the Great Southern for years to come," Mr Manning said.

The draft version of the Blueprint and associated documents are still available for download at www.gsdc.wa.gov.au.

The draft Blueprint is complemented by the GSDC's new Strategic Directions 2014-2020. The document, also available on the GSDC website, sets directions for the agency out to 2020.

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Set a future date

Future-focused people should set aside Friday 27 March for the Great Southern's first Future Forum, to be held at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

The forum will take up themes from the Great Southern Regional Blueprint and stimulate discussion on future directions for agribusiness, aquaculture, wine, small business, the digital economy and more.

The GSDC is presenting the forum in

partnership with the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), City of Albany, Small Business Centre Great Southern and Regional Development Australia-Great Southern.

Register an interest in attending by contacting the ACCI and refer to the GSDC and ACCI websites for more information.

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Grants scheme builds region

Great Southern communities benefit

Funding opportunities are now available through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme in the fourth round of the Royalties for Regions-supported scheme.

In the three previous rounds, a total of \$11 million supported 95 projects approved in the region.

Major initiatives that were supported in the earlier rounds of the RGS included the \$6 million Science Building project at the University of Western Australia Albany campus and the \$6 million extension

of the Munda Biddi Trail from Nannup to Albany. Each of these projects was supported by \$1.5 million of Royalties for Regions funding through the RGS.

In the case of the Munda Biddi Trail extension, the Great Southern RGS funding was for works carried out on sections of the trail in the Great Southern, from Nornalup to Albany.

RGS funding also went to a range of substantial projects such as Discovery Bay, the Albany Surf Life Saving clubroom

extension and the Smart Start early childhood development program.

Sporting facilities were improved in many towns across the Great Southern, including Woodanilling, Borden, Nyabing, Albany, Katanning, Jerramungup and Denmark.

Seniors' accommodation was expanded and improved through projects in Gnowangerup, Mount Barker and Walpole. More RGS-supported seniors' accommodation was added recently when



Recreation facilities in the Great Southern were improved through the RGS. Projects included skate parks in Mount Barker (above) and Kendenup.



The Munda Biddi Trail (above) was a major RGS project that was completed in 2013 and inaugurated with a bike ride from Albany to Mundaring.



Covered outdoor learning areas were provided in Katanning at Braeside Primary School (above) through the RGS.



Sporting activity was encouraged through the RGS with improvements including the redevelopment of the Borden sports precinct (right).

Wagin MLA Terry Waldron opened the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup independent living seniors' accommodation at Tambellup on Friday 3 October.

The project involved the construction of six two-bedroom dedicated seniors' units within a secure complex with landscaping and a shared central gazebo area.

On Sunday 5 October 2014, Discovery Bay Tourism Experience was officially opened by South West MLC Colin Holt.

The GSDC supported the development of the native gardens component of the project with \$380,000 in Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme.

A week-long Discovery Bay Spring Festival followed the opening and members of the public were able to enjoy the new tourism experience.

Another RGS-supported project from previous grants rounds, the Oyster Harbour Fish Traps, is nearing completion.

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The Great Southern Festival was supported by RGS funding in a three-year program taking in the festival's 10th anniversary in 2012. Public Opinion Afro Orchestra (right) performed in Borden in 2011.



RGS projects in Denmark have included improvements at the tip shop (left) and extensions at the Denmark Country Club (below).



Seniors' accommodation has been expanded in many regional centres through the RGS, including in Walpole (above) where the GSDC worked with the South West Development Commission to provide facilities that benefit both regions.



Katanning provided facilities (right) for its regional entertainment centre at the Katanning Town Hall, aided by RGS and other grants.

New doors open for dementia care

Hawthorn House in purpose-built premises

People with dementia and their carers have welcomed the opening of the new \$2 million Hawthorn House on the outskirts of Albany.

Seniors Minister Tony Simpson opened the new facility on Friday 5 September.

Mr Simpson acknowledged the contributions made by volunteers and community groups that supported Hawthorn House.

"Addressing the needs of an ageing population is a responsibility shared across the whole of government and community," Mr Simpson said.

Through the Royalties for Regions Action Agenda Fund, the State Government provided \$992,334 to Alzheimer's Australia for the project.

To initiate the project, the GSDC assisted with the development of a business case funded through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme, which helped secure the main funding.

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the new Hawthorn House, designed by H+H Architects, was an excellent facility for the valued services of Alzheimer's Australia.



The opening of the new Hawthorn House was celebrated by former manager Elizabeth Barnes (left), GSDC manager industry and infrastructure Russell Pritchard and staff member Lorraine Benson.

"Congratulations to the staff and volunteers, and to the former manager Elizabeth Barnes, who contributed so much to bringing the project about," Mr Rundle said.

Hawthorn House is committed to Eden Alternative Care principles, under which patients' input is taken into account to adjust the care environment and to

tackle the three elements of suffering in dementia: loneliness, boredom and helplessness.

Services offered through Hawthorn House include respite care to enable partners and carers of people with dementia to take time for other activities.

Contact: Russell Pritchard, ph. 9842 4888

Summer bus ready to roll

Holiday fun for young people

Busloads of young people from the Great Southern hinterland will head for summer fun in Albany when the GSDC-supported Holiday Bus program starts in January.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays from January 6 to 29, the Holiday Bus will head from Wagin down the Great Southern Highway and Albany Highway to Albany and back again.

Young people from 14 to 18 years, and younger children accompanied by a parent or guardian, can join the bus trip to summer activities at the Albany cinema,

town centre, leisure centre, Middleton Beach or the skate park. The coach has room for skateboards, surfboards, body boards and bicycles.

Tickets are \$5 for the round trip and consent forms signed by a parent or guardian are required.

The GSDC supports the Holiday Bus service in partnership with local governments along the bus route, providing healthy holiday activities for Great Southern families who may have limited access to the coast during the summer school holidays.

The Holiday Bus starts at 7am in Wagin and travels via Woodanilling, Katanning, Broomehill, Tambellup, Cranbrook, Kendenup TransWA stop and Mount Barker, to arrive in Albany at 10.15am. On the return trip, it leaves Middleton Beach at 3.45pm and arrives in Wagin at 7pm.

For information and bookings, contact coordinator Zee at the Shire of Katanning at ydo@katanning.wa.gov.au or on 9821 9999.

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'Glamping' option in student designs

Accommodation concepts for Bremer Bay

Students from Curtin University are bringing new design ideas to the Great Southern.

Interior architecture students have been active in Bremer Bay and Katanning as part of a university project with local support from the GSDC.

Under the Australian Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program and in partnership with Curtin University's Ethics, Equity and Social Justice Department, the students take part in a range of learning projects.

In Bremer Bay, a group of third-year students consulted with the local community and delivered concept plans for accommodation at the Bremer Bay Sports Club.

Concepts developed by the students were environmentally sensitive, fire resistant and suitable for groups, families, couples and individual, and could be multi-use and adaptable for functions.

The designs propose adaptable bedrooms and communal outdoor spaces, and would feature rammed earth and weather-resistant steel.

Units could include permanent structures and a 'glamping' option, providing a 'glamour' camping experience in a set



A concept design by Curtin University students for an environmentally integrated family accommodation unit at Bremer Bay.

space with a removable tent cover than can be packed away and stored when not in use.

Student team leader Emma Whettingsteel said the project was important for the students.

"It was extremely significant in terms of establishing a professional identity and developing practical skills in client relationships and self-management," Ms Whettingsteel said. "It was confidence-building to work in an environment removed from our university routine and still manage to produce high quality work that we can be proud of."

"Positive feedback from the community

was especially encouraging. This is definitely an experience that would be great to repeat."

Katanning also recently benefited as a class of students developed layouts for the All Ages Playground and concept designs for the old railway building in Katanning to be converted into a visitor centre.

In the lead-up to community consultations, the students visited Lake Ewlyamartup with local Noongar elders and Ella Maesepp from the Landcare Centre, and the saleyards with Shire of Katanning representatives.

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Sheep business centre for Katanning

Research and innovation for industry

A \$10 million Sheep Industry Business Innovation project announced recently includes a new sheep business centre at the Katanning Research Facility of the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Agriculture and Food Minister Ken Baston launched the project at the Sheep Leaders Forum in Katanning on Thursday 9 October.

The Sheep Industry Business Innovation project is supported by Royalties for

Regions funds and is part of the \$300 million Seizing the Opportunity in Agriculture initiative.

Mr Baston said the aim of the project was to build industry growth and cultivate new markets for sheepmeat and live exports in Asia and the Middle East.

The sheep business centre will provide a hub for information, research, training and innovation in the sheep industry, which will

link with other providers throughout the State.

"It will play an important role in providing the science, skills and strategies to help the sheep industry improve capacity and supply chains to satisfy customer requirements for lamb, mutton and wool," Mr Baston said.

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New home for English language learners

Tutors for literacy, numeracy skills

Katanning's Language Learning Centre is ready to help people who need assistance with literacy and numeracy.

The centre, located in the Katanning Library, is part of the SuperTown program and was officially opened by Wagin MLA Terry Waldron on Friday 5 December.

Volunteer English lessons are delivered at the centre through Katanning Read Write Now, which had previously operated out of other premises.

Katanning library manager Sue Eastcott said the lessons were free and open to anyone with literacy or numeracy difficulties. These services have been used predominantly by humanitarian refugees settling in Katanning who want to achieve basic spoken and written English skills.

Equipment at the centre includes a whiteboard, a large work table, and computers for accessing on-line language programs, citizenship requirements and driver's licence preparation.

Ms Eastcott said the centre was set up in a



Wagin MLA Terry Waldron (centre) opened the Language Learning Centre. Joining him at the opening were Katanning Shire President Alan McFarland and Cr Leisha Wood, who chaired the committee that prepared the business case for the centre.

library workroom that had previously been underutilised and would provide a better environment and location for Read Write Now.

"There is a good synergy between the library and the English as a second language centre," Ms Eastcott said.

"The library has some materials available

in other languages, and having both creates a comfort zone and helps people to cross over into learning English."

A marketing campaign will be run next year to publicise the centre's programs and to recruit volunteer tutors.

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