

Albany embraces racing yachts

International exposure for Great Southern

Albany turned on the hospitality and gained some international friends when the crews and supporters of the Clipper Round the World yacht race sailed into town in November.

Developments over the past few years at the Albany Waterfront provided the perfect setting to welcome the 12 racing yachts for a port call of several days.

The Clipper Round the World race is a biennial event in which crews from wide-ranging backgrounds join experienced ocean-racing skippers to race 12 identical 21m yachts around the world from London.

The Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) supported the Albany leg prize presentation event and a Clipper Festival, in partnership with the City of Albany and other supporters.

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the Commission's support helped to ensure that the visiting crews and supporters had a warm welcome at the Albany Boatshed.

"The bigger story is that the Albany Waterfront, with its marina and the Albany Entertainment Centre, has been a long-term focus of the GSDC," Mr Rundle said.

"Facilities provided at the waterfront were essential in attracting the Clipper race to Albany.



Albany turned on a warm welcome for the crews and supporters of the Clipper Round the World yacht race.

"International exposure resulted for Albany and the Great Southern, and the event drew yachting fans from Perth and elsewhere to look over the boats and watch the start of the Albany to Sydney leg," Mr Rundle said.

The Clipper Festival on Saturday 30 November was affected by strong winds that limited some outside activities, but still drew

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The crew of Great Britain celebrate the high of winning the Cape Town to Albany leg of the race.



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Thousands help to leverage millions

Federal funding confirmation welcomed

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle has welcomed a Federal Government decision to confirm the funding for major projects in Albany, Mount Barker and Denmark.

After the September Federal election, previously-announced funding through the Regional Development Australia Fund was placed under review but in early December the Government said that the commitments would stand.

The City of Albany had secured a grant of \$8.25 million towards its \$27 million Centennial Park project and the Shire of Plantagenet had secured a \$1 million grant towards its \$9.5 million Sounness Park project.

Mr Rundle said the GSDC had supported

and contributed to the early stages of the projects, including \$100,000 of Royalties for Regions funding for related improvements at the Mount Barker Turf Club, and was pleased to see its strategic development work justified.

"GSDC support of thousands of dollars has helped to leverage millions of dollars into the Great Southern," Mr Rundle said.

"Credit must go to the local governments involved for their longstanding commitment to these developments.

"It is good to see the Federal Government affirm the value of regional investments of this nature.

"Albany's project will serve the needs of

elite sports people as well as providing general sports and community facilities.

"The Mount Barker project will transform the sporting precinct around Sounness Park and provide co-located facilities for many of the local sporting clubs.

"Both projects will significantly contribute to the wellbeing and excellence of Great Southern communities," Mr Rundle said.

The Federal Government announcement also confirmed the status of \$500,000 in funding for a \$2.2 million project in Denmark to upgrade the Denmark Bowling Club site to include facilities for water sports clubs that use the Denmark River.

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Albany embraces racing yachts

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hundreds of people to visit the boats and find out about life aboard a racing yacht.

Clipper race chairman Sir Robin Knox-Johnston praised the warm hospitality the crews experienced in Albany.

Albany provided highs and lows for the skipper and crew of the yacht Great Britain, which won the third leg of the race, from Cape Town to Albany, but then lost valuable sailing time after it was involved

in a collision with PSP Logistics at the start of the Albany to Sydney leg.

At the finish of the third leg of the race, Great Britain was in second place overall, behind Henri Lloyd.

From Albany, the yachts were to sail east and arrive in Sydney in mid-December. On Boxing Day, they will join the fleet in the Sydney to Hobart race.

They will leave Australia in January and sail to south-east Asia, visiting Singapore

and Qingdao, then to the US west coast, through the Panama Canal, to New York and finally finish their circumnavigation in the United Kingdom in July.

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Left: Race contender Henri Lloyd sails into Princess Royal Harbour after a tough ocean crossing from Cape Town.

Right: A crowd on Marine Drive watches the yachts round the first mark after the start of the Albany to Sydney leg of the race.



Festival excitement intensifies

Artistic director announces program

Nine days of intense entertainment and cultural engagement are in store for regional audiences at the 2014 Great Southern Festival.

Perth International Arts Festival artistic director Jonathan Holloway unveiled a new approach to programming the Great Southern's share of Perth International Arts Festival events when he launched the 2014 program in Albany on Thursday 28 November.

Mr Holloway said the quantity and quality of the festival events were similar to previous years but they were programmed over a shorter span of nine exciting days that would be a cultural feast. The main program takes place from Friday 21 February to Saturday 1 March, but the 12-film cinema program runs from Tuesday 4 February to Thursday 20 March.

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the Commission continued its commitment to supporting the festival as Great Southern Principal Partner, having helped to initiate it in 2003.

"The GSDC strongly values the Great Southern Festival, which enhances cultural life in the region and helps our artists and performers develop their potential," Mr Rundle said.

"Visiting the Great Southern to attend Perth Festival events is an attractive option for people from outside the region, particularly given the intense nine-day program being adopted by the organisers in 2014."

Highlights of the festival include soul musician Booker T Jones at Castelli Estate winery, traditional Irish music from Altan, powerful theatre in An Iliad and the Playmakers program focusing on the cello.



Perth International Arts Festival artistic director Jonathan Holloway outlines the 2014 Great Southern Festival program at the Albany Entertainment Centre in November.

Girt By Sea, a cinematic interpretation of Australia's love for the coastal life, will screen at a free outdoor event at Middleton Beach on Saturday 1 March. Aboriginal heritage site tours will take place in Albany, and writers events will feature Philipp Meyer, William McInnes, Rabia Siddique and others.

Great Southern Festival programs are available at the Albany Entertainment Centre (AEC) and participating outlets.

Tickets can be booked online through perthfestival.com.au, at the AEC or at Paperbark Merchants (non-AEC events only).

The printed program gives the wrong date for a romantically-themed cello performance at The Rocks; the event is on Saturday 22 February, not on the Sunday as printed.

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GSDC festive season closure

GSDC offices in Albany and Katanning will close for the Christmas break at 5pm on Tuesday 24 December, and reopen at 8.30am on Thursday 2 January.

Board and staff members wish all project partners and supporters the compliments of the season and look forward to continuing working together in 2014.

National award for land link pioneers

Gondwana Link achievement honoured

Innovative Great Southern environmental group Gondwana Link has achieved national recognition in the prestigious 2013 Banksia Sustainability Awards.

Gondwana Link chief executive officer Keith Bradby, the winner of the 2005 GSDC Medal, received the award at a ceremony in Melbourne in October.

Mr Bradby said Gondwana Link's award in the 'Land and Biodiversity – preserving our ecosystems' category was given for the organisation's 'innovative approach, vision and partnerships formed to achieve substantial biodiversity outcomes'.

Gondwana Link was established in 2002 to reconnect natural habitats across south-western Australia and has built an impressive series of partnerships with land care and conservation groups.

"We put this nomination up on behalf of the 22 or so groups that we work with that have done all the work," Mr Bradby said.

"It's overdue recognition for all their effort,



Gondwana Link strategic planner Paula Deegan (left) and information manager Amanda Keesing join CEO Keith Bradby to celebrate winning a Banksia Sustainability Award.

a 1000km long collective effort to build resilience back into the ecosystems, both to counter the current issues they've got but also as climate change hits them harder.

"When we started it was just a crazy idea but now it's well on the way to being completed and it has an increasing number of groups involved.

"Gondwana Link has brought in something like \$30 million that wouldn't have come into the region otherwise.

"It's a recognised leader and we're actually

assisting and mentoring some emerging programs with similar goals," Mr Bradby said.

Mr Bradby said the black metal and wood award, nicknamed Spike, had been taken around the Great Southern and other areas covered by Gondwana Link.

"We're making sure all the groups involved can use the seal from the Banksia Foundation and can use the profile and prestige to get them what they need to keep working," Mr

Bradby said.

Mr Bradby was awarded the 2005 GSDC Medal and used the \$10,000 grant to develop the organisation's planning processes to include social considerations and improve collaboration between groups connected to Gondwana Link.

The Banksia Foundation is a national not-for-profit organisation that promotes environmental excellence and sustainability.

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Coach to coast

Holiday Bus to boost fun factor

Summer breaks are beckoning young people in the Great Southern and the Holiday Bus will be back in January to boost the fun factor.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays from January 7 to 30, the GSDC-supported Holiday Bus will travel from Wagin down the Great Southern Highway to Albany and back again.

Young people from 14 to 18 years, and younger children accompanied by a parent or guardian, can take the Holiday Bus to summer fun at the Albany cinema,

town centre, Albany Leisure and Aquatic 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 anyone under 18 must have a consent form signed by a parent or guardian.

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

Holiday Bus services start at 7am in Wagin and travel via Woodanilling, Katanning, Broomehill, Tambellup, Cranbrook, Kendenup TransWA stop and Mount Barker to arrive in Albany at 10.15am. To return, the bus leaves Middleton Beach at 3.45pm and arrives in Wagin at 7pm.

For information and bookings, contact Cheyenne Kay at the Tambellup Community Resource Centre on 9825 1177 or email trainee2@tambellupccr.net.au.

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Search starts for natural resource hero

GSDC Medal nominations open

Innovation and leadership in the management of natural resources will bring a \$12,000 project support package for someone in the Great Southern when the GSDC Medal is awarded in May 2014.

Nominations for the 2014 medal are now open, and will close at 4.30pm on Wednesday 26 February.

Following the close of nominations, a shortlist will be developed by a medal assessment panel, and three finalists will be interviewed in April.

The finalists will be celebrated at a gala dinner in May. Each of the three finalists will receive a \$2000 grant to further their work, and the winner will receive an additional \$10,000 along with the sterling silver GSDC Medal.

Potential nominees for the GSDC Medal include farmers, scientists, researchers, business people, community organisers or anyone else who exhibits exemplary practice in the management of natural resources in the region.

This includes the conservation and sustainable use of natural terrestrial and marine resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

The award is open to people working in the sector that go above and beyond, and to those who volunteer their time and resources.

For the first time, the GSDC Medal has a Twitter presence, at Twitter:@NRM_Medal, which will provide updates on the nomination and assessment process

and the work of the winner and finalists. Upcoming medal events such as field days and the presentation dinner will also be publicised via Twitter.

The immediate past winner is John Moore, a weed scientist with the Department of Agriculture, and passionate Sydney golden wattle eradicator. Other recent winners include native plant agronomist Dr Geoff Woodall, community leader and malleefowl protector Susanne Dennings and Woodanilling farmer Russel Thomson.

The GSDC Medal is awarded every two years, and in alternate years the work of the medallists is featured at a GSDC Medal field day.

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Book to spur good memories

New publication for presentations

A new book featuring images by renowned photographer Richard Woldendorp is part of the GSDC's hospitality for visiting dignitaries.

Western Australia's South Coast: Albany, Denmark, Mount Barker and the Great Southern Region takes an appreciative look at the wonders of the Great Southern.

It contains more than 100 photographs and selected quotes about the Great Southern, some from historical records and others from contemporary figures including GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle and City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington.

The GSDC participated in the production of the book, along with the City of Albany, the Shire of Denmark and the Shire of Plantagenet.

Visiting dignitaries may be provided with a copy of *Western Australia's South Coast* along with more detailed written information about the Great Southern.

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the



Photographs by Richard Woldendorp in an inside spread from the publication *Western Australia's South Coast*.

publication presented a beautiful visual summary of the region.

"Richard Woldendorp is an accomplished photographer and his images capture the natural beauty of the Great Southern," Mr Rundle said.

"The GSDC is well aware of the importance of engaging with potential investors from China, so we also arranged a Chinese edition of the publication. Providing an attractive memento will help to ensure our

visitors' long-term recall and appreciation of their exploration of opportunities in the Great Southern."

Western Australia's South Coast is the fifth in a series by Perth publisher Bonser Design. The book is not distributed through retail outlets but people interested in obtaining a copy can contact Bonser Design at info@bonserdesign.com.au or on 9382 1155.

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Educators look to the future

Conference looks at global challenges

Educators from across the Great Southern took an in-depth look at educating for the future on October 13 and 14.

With the aid of support from the GSDC, the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management (CENRM) held the inaugural Education Futures Great Southern Conference at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

The opening speakers were Western Australian Chief Scientist Professor Lyn Beazley and futurist Dr Peter Ellyard.

Keynote speakers included Education for World Futures Director Professor Neville Bruce, Australian Curriculum Assessment

and Reporting Authority Chair Professor Barry McGaw and Winthrop Professor of Biodiversity Stephen Hopper.

A host of support speakers presented a wide variety of workshop sessions on issues of interest to educators.

More than 300 educators and academics took part in the plenary and workshop sessions, looking at teaching practice and the Australian Curriculum in the light of futures thinking.

Futures thinking involves engaging with the global challenges of the 21st century, such as an increasing world population, scarcity of fresh water, the adequacy of

food production and the depletion of fish stocks.

Workshops included sessions focusing on waste, sustainability and biodiversity.

Tambellup Primary School teacher Sue Sheridan took the opportunity to showcase A Smart Start, the early childhood learning program supported by the GSDC with Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme.

Participants in the conference said the event was informative and would help to develop their teaching.

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Students pitch design ideas

Youth centre plans for Shire administration building

Second-year interior architecture students in Curtin University's School of Built Environment have pitched design ideas for a potential youth centre in the Shire of Katanning administration building.

Under the Community Encounters program, established by the university and supported in Katanning by the GSDC, the 46 students and three lecturers spent a week in town exploring the community and developing design ideas.

Canvassing concepts for a youth centre in the administration building relates to Katanning's SuperTown planning, under which the Shire administration is set to move to the Unit Hotel site.

The students, divided into nine groups, developed a variety of concept plans for the administration building and presented their designs to the Shire of Katanning and GSDC representatives at the end of their trip.

Unit coordinator Janet Keating said the students produced innovative treatments for the building, including provisions for indoor performance spaces, exhibition areas and outdoor theatre.



Curtin University students present their concept plans to an appreciative audience in Katanning.

"Given the short time, it was impressive to see the complexity of design they came up with and how much they were able to achieve," Ms Keating said.

To build their ideas, the students spoke to community members and young people around Katanning, and visited Carrolup and Kodja Place.

Members of the public were invited to view the concept plans once they had been presented to the Shire.

If the administration building is used for another purpose after the Shire relocates, elements drawn from the students'

concept plans may be translated to an alternative venue.

Curtin University built environment students have visited Katanning for the past two years, contributing to design ideas for the Town Hall, Leisure Centre and Community Resource Centre.

Concepts initiated during the visits may be taken up in the later development of designs for projects in Katanning. A business case is being prepared for the prospective youth centre.

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Double celebration for Broomehill

Repository and gardens officially opened

Broomehill hosted a double celebration on Thursday 7 November when residents and dignitaries marked the opening of two local projects.

Wagin MLA Terry Waldron opened the Broomehill Archive Repository and, a short time later, Sheridan's Memorial Garden.

The archive repository is a new role for the former Broomehill Shire Council office premises. The building had been under-used following the 2008 amalgamation of the Shires of Broomehill and Tambellup, under which the administration was centred in Tambellup.

A feasibility study part-funded by a \$20,000 Royalties for Regions grant through the GSDC's Regional Grants Scheme determined that the building could be converted into an archive records repository serving four local governments: the Shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Kojonup, Cranbrook and Plantagenet.

Country Local Government Funding supported a \$416,000 conversion of the building into a repository, providing a climate-controlled, secure location for the storage of archived documents.

The structure also houses the Broomehill library, which was refurbished as part of the project.



Wagin MLA Terry Waldron places the first records in the Broomehill Archive Repository on the opening day.

Sheridan's Memorial Garden was developed following the adoption of a Broomehill Village Heritage Precinct plan prepared by the Shire in 2011, aided by \$6000 in Royalties for Regions small grants funding through the GSDC's Regional Grants Scheme.

The garden, between Broomehill's hotel and town hall, is named for local pioneer

Kathleen Sheridan who lived in Broomehill in the early 20th century. Mrs Sheridan was the licensee of the Imperial Hotel and commissioned the construction of Sheridan Hall, which was acquired by the Broomehill Road Board in 1917 and became the Broomehill Shire Hall.

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Tourism operators excel

National awards beckon Great Southern enterprises

Great Southern tourism operators scaled the heights at the 2013 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards announced in Perth on Saturday 9 November.

Eight Great Southern tourism enterprises earned awards, including gold awards that carry eligibility for the Australian national tourism awards to be presented in Sydney on 7 February 2014.

Gold award winners included Denmark's Out of Sight Tours, in the ecotourism category, and The Lake House winery for

tourism restaurants and catering services category.

The Walpole Wilderness Discovery Centre, which includes the Tree Top Walk in the Great Southern, won gold in the new tourism development category.

Beach House at Bayside, West Cape Howe Cottages and the Bushfood Factory and Café also won gold awards and will go on to the national awards.

Out of Sight Tours also won a silver award

in the tour and/or transport operators category, and tour operator David Bomba was named the FACET golden guide.

The Lake House also took away dual awards, winning a bronze in the tourism wineries, distilleries and breweries category. HideAway Haven and Karma Chalets and Karisma Spa also won awards.

The WA Tourism Awards are presented annually and attract strong competition.

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Sporting life in Borden

New facilities for fun and fitness

Borden residents have new opportunities for fun and fitness following a major upgrade of the town's sporting precinct.

Sporting teams now enjoy new bowling greens, better netball and tennis courts, cricket practice nets and improved grounds for hockey, cricket and football.

A multi-use viewing shelter has been provided for spectators.

Sport and Recreation Minister Terry Waldron opened the new facilities on Sunday 20 October and commended the community on its participation.

The \$967,000 project included \$140,000 of Royalties for Regions funding through the GSDC's Regional Grants Scheme in addition to funding from Lotterywest and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Borden sporting precinct sub-committee chair Doug Wright said the opening was a successful day for the town.

"Lots of people turned out for the opening



Former Borden Shire Councillors Jan Savage (left) and Kerry Stone, along with Borden sporting precinct sub-committee chair Doug Wright (right) joined Sport and Recreation Minister Terry Waldron (second from left) to celebrate the opening of the sporting precinct upgrade.

and it was timed to coincide with the Borden Pavilion Committee's long table lunch, which is their main fundraiser for the year," Mr Wright said.

"Facilities like this are important for small towns because of the need for recreation and socialising when you live apart on farms or in far-flung communities.

"The pavilion, and now the new sporting facilities, bring everyone together in the one spot. Thursday nights have now turned into cricket training plus social bowls and tennis and it has become a very social and relaxed night," Mr Wright said.

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