

Super lift for Katanning

New central precinct for Great Southern SuperTown

Katanning will revamp its commercial and administrative precinct and town entry with \$8.7 million of Royalties for Regions funding under the SuperTowns program.

Premier Colin Barnett and Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls announced the allocation of almost \$80 million in SuperTowns funding on Thursday 31 May.

Among the nine SuperTowns to receive funding, Katanning was granted \$8.9 million, of which \$8.7 million is for a transformational project to create the commercial and administrative precinct near the intersection of Austral Terrace and Clive Street, a town square on Clive Street and an upgraded town entry from the Great Southern Highway into Clive Street.

New migrant and cultural support programs will also be established by a community development officer in a project granted \$255,000 of SuperTowns funding.

Mr Grylls said the SuperTowns program, formally known as the Regional Centres Development Plan, would provide a catalyst for future investment from government and private enterprise that would enhance the towns and benefit neighbouring communities in the process.

Wagin MLA Terry Waldron visited Katanning for the announcement on 31 May and told a 70-strong audience that Katanning had worked hard to put together proposals that had community support.

Shire President Richard Kowald paid tribute



Wagin MLA Terry Waldron and a Katanning audience watch the funding announcement by Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls.

to the community members who took part in the consultation process, and to the support from agencies including the Great Southern Development Commission.

Community consultations in Katanning drew consistently high participation rates, gaining the views of hundreds of local residents.

A growth plan based on the community consultations is available through the Shire of Katanning website at www.katanning.wa.gov.au or by contacting the Shire on 9821 9999.

Katanning's town centre project will include 'repurposing' heritage buildings, among them the iconic Flour Mill.

Design work for the central precinct changes is under way and the first construction activity could begin as early as November 2012. The project will take up to a year.

Contact: Russell Pritchard, ph. 9842 4888
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Trail section open for cycle touring

Denmark to Albany leg complete

There's a new way to travel between Denmark and Albany following the opening of a 74km section of the Munda Biddi Trail.

Off-road cyclists can pedal between the two coastal towns on a combination of constructed trail, old railway formations and minor roads.

Environment Minister Bill Marmion and Corrective Services Minister Terry Redman jointly opened the new section of the trail on Sunday 20 May.

The Albany-Denmark connection is part of a \$6.2 million project to extend the Munda Biddi Trail from Nannup to Albany.

Support for the project includes \$1.5 million of Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme administered by the GSDC, along with Department of Environment and Conservation funding.

Work is also proceeding on the Nannup end, where the extension has reached Manjimup and is pushing on to Walpole, with the support of the South West Development Commission.



Corrective Services Minister Terry Redman and Environment Minister Bill Marmion jointly opened the Denmark to Albany section of the Munda Biddi Trail in May.

When the extension is finished, the Munda Biddi Trail will join Mundaring and Albany via a 1000km trail.

Users will stay overnight in towns where possible, but huts are provided at strategic points between towns that are more than a day's ride apart.

Cycle tourism is expected to boost economic activity in towns along the trail. A separate grant supports a community development program encouraging businesses to tailor services and products for trail users.

Contact: Duane Schouten, ph. 9842 4888

Aboriginal art on the move

Centre hopes for marketing boost

Aboriginal artists are set to gain a higher profile in the Great Southern when the Mungart Boodja art centre moves to Albany.

Mungart Boodja has been located in Katanning for the past eight years, displaying and promoting the works of Aboriginal artists from across the Great Southern.

A review in August 2011, supported by the GSDC, recommended relocating the centre to Albany to support regular contact with member artists, to gain better access to tourism markets and to build stronger

relations with related organisations and supporters.

Mungart Boodja has about 80 members and supports approximately 35 active artists and is the only Aboriginal art centre in the State's south-west. The centre has strong connections to the Carrolup art school story, and has hosted international visits in connection with the saga of the loss and rediscovery of the acclaimed Carrolup works.

Mungart Boodja will continue to support Noongar arts development across the whole Great Southern.

With the support of Aboriginal Arts Centre Hub WA (AACHWA), Mungart Boodja has appointed interim manager Brian Mason to oversee the relocation and implement the new strategic direction.

The centre's Board expects to appoint a new full-time manager in August 2012.

The GSDC has been working with the AACHWA and the Department of Indigenous Affairs to support the Mungart Boodja Board during the transition.

Contact: Jessica van der Waag
Ph. 9821 3211

Honoured scientist for CENRM

Kew Gardens Director to take up Albany post

Scientific research and education in the Great Southern will be boosted later this year by the arrival of honoured plant conservation biologist Professor Stephen Hopper AC.

Professor Hopper, currently the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, was made a Companion in the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of his contribution as a global leader in science.

In late 2012, Professor Hopper will relinquish his position at Kew Gardens and take up the newly-established Chair in Biodiversity at the University of Western Australia, based at the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management in Albany.

The GSDC and the Jack Family Trust each contributed \$48,000 over three years to support the position, ensuring much of Professor Hopper's time will be spent on CENRM-related activity on the South Coast.

CENRM Director Professor Peter Davies said Professor Hopper's appointment to the new Chair in Biodiversity was important for the continued development of the centre.

"Science conducted through CENRM is already contributing to our understanding



Professor Stephen Hopper at Kew Gardens. Photo courtesy Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

of regional, national and international issues, particularly in relation to water resource management," Professor Davies said.

"Professor Hopper's plant conservation expertise will broaden the research base and add a new dimension of strength to CENRM's research and teaching.

"Colleagues and students at UWA and beyond will benefit from this appointment and CENRM's stature as a research centre will continue to grow," Professor Davies said.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said Professor Hopper had international standing and a strong research record.

"He is a major contributor to our understanding of biodiversity and conservation in the south-west of Western Australia," Mr Manning said.

"Professor Hopper will build links between CENRM and Kew Gardens, and will be involved in research related to biodiversity in Western Australia."

Professor Hopper was appointed Director at Kew Gardens in 2006. He graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1973, has served as Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and was the Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at UWA from 2004 to 2006.

Contact: Bruce Manning, ph. 9842 4888

Research centre's new home on track

Building to boost science education

Science's new home in the Great Southern is taking shape next to the University of Western Australia Albany Centre.

A \$7.4 million sciences building, set into a steep slope between Stirling Terrace and Proudlove Parade, is due to open later in the year to become the new base of the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management (CENRM).

Construction of the sciences building is

supported by \$1.5 million over three years in Royalties for Regions funding through the GSDC.

Emco Building project manager Craig Boyce said construction was on track for a handover at the end of July.

"The exterior is substantially complete and almost to lock-up stage," Mr Boyce said.

"We are working on the internal fixtures and

fittings, and expect to begin commissioning the electrical and plumbing systems soon."

Students and researchers in the Great Southern will benefit from the building's classrooms, science and medical library, resource room, teaching and research laboratories, and academic offices. Apart from CENRM, the sciences building will host the Rural Clinical School of WA.

Contact: Duane Schouten, ph. 9842 4888

Fresh look for region's towns

Funding supports major enhancements

Local governments across the Great Southern are busy on a variety of projects that are enhancing town centres in the region.

The \$1 million-plus Royalties for Regions-funded Town Centre Enhancement Program was announced in February 2011 to help local governments in the Great Southern to improve townscapes.

Each local government authority in the region received funding in the GSDC-administered program, for projects ranging from a planning process in the Shire of Woodanilling to major improvements in Jerramungup, Katanning and Kojoonup.

The Shire of Plantagenet has installed promotional street banners in Lowood Road and is improving drainage, the road surface and footpaths in Short Street.

Streetscapes in Gnowangerup, Borden and Ongerup will be upgraded in the Shire of Gnowangerup's project, which includes heritage and public art components.

The Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup is installing a gazebo for visitors, upgrading street furniture and landscaping, and setting up a sheltered display of a horse-drawn grader.

Jerramungup's revitalisation project features a community-managed garden displaying rare flora from the Fitzgerald Biosphere, nature-based play equipment



Left: Adam Plant braces the ladder for his father Paul Plant, proprietor of PEP Building Improvements, as they work on a new gazebo in Tambellup.

Below: Drainage work is under way in Elleker, ahead of resurfacing the road and building footpaths.

and the installation of public art and entry statements.

Elleker is the focus of the City of Albany project, where better drainage, footpaths and road resurfacing is under way.

In Nyabing, the Kent Shire is landscaping mainstreet parking areas and around the settler's hall, and similar works are taking place in Pingrup.

The \$1 million Town Centre Enhancement program has generated projects valued at more than \$3 million, once other funding sources and co-contributions are included.

Contact: Christine Grogan, ph. 9842 4888



Franky McCarthy (left) and John Small lay blocks around the edge of Nyabing's main street parking area.



The Shire of Gnowangerup has reconstructed a railway shelter at Varey Park near the centre of town.

Major Projects Supplement

The Great Southern Development Commission provides this update on major industry, infrastructure and construction related projects to better inform the community of the status of major projects and to maximise local and regional business and employment involvement. These projects are also listed at www.gsd.com.au. Additional information can be obtained through the contact person noted for each project.

Albany Health Campus

Proponent: Health Department

Value: \$170.4 million

Location: Albany

Description: Construction of a new health campus which will function as the hub for health services in the Great Southern. The campus will feature modern facilities which will support the delivery of quality health services and offer the very best in contemporary care, enabling up to 80 per cent of patients from the Great Southern to be treated closer to where they live. The campus is being built on the existing hospital site in Warden Avenue, Albany, which will remain open while the new campus is under construction.

Status: Under construction until Q4/2012. Due to open in 2013.

Contact: Susan Kay

Address: Warden Avenue, Albany, WA 6330

Telephone: (08) 9892 2672

Fax: (08) 9842 1095

Email: Susan.Kay@health.wa.gov.au

Website: www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/albanyhealthcampus



Albany Health Campus under construction.

to port is proposed via an underground slurry pipeline. The magnetite concentrate will be processed into pellets at Kemaman, Malaysia.

Status: Definitive feasibility study complete. Mine and port environmental permits secured. Investment decision expected near the end of 2012.

Contact: Glenda Stirling, Community Liaison Officer

Address: 110 Serpentine Rd, Albany, WA 6330

Telephone: (08) 9841 4255

Fax: (08) 9841 3643

Email: glenda.stirling@grangeresources.com.au

Website: www.grangeresources.com.au

Fax: (08) 9423 7722

Email: Allan.waugh@watercorporation.com.au

Website: www.watercorporation.com.au

Frost-Sounness Recreation Precinct

Proponent: Shire of Plantagenet

Value: \$10.9 million

Location: Mount Barker

Description: A redevelopment of Mount Barker's Frost / Sounness Recreation Precinct to better meet the needs of the community.

Status: The first stage of development is the Sounness Park Recreation Precinct. The detailed design plans are being prepared for this \$8 million stage with plans to go to tender in August 2012, pending the outcome of grant applications. A 24-month construction period is anticipated.

Work is under way at Frost Park with the construction of a thoroughbred racehorse training track and on-course stabling block. Further developments will be progressed on the completion of Sounness Park.

Contact: Rob Stewart, CEO

Address: PO Box 48, Mt Barker, WA 6324

Telephone: (08) 9892 1125

Fax: (08) 9892 1100

Email: ceo@plantagenet.wa.gov.au

Website: www.plantagenet.wa.gov.au

Southdown Magnetite Feasibility Study

Proponent: Grange Resources Ltd

Value: \$150 million (feasibility study only)

Location: Wellstead

Description: Grange Resources is developing a \$2.9 billion Southdown magnetite project near Wellstead. The project is targeting to produce 10 million tonnes per annum of high grade magnetite concentrate to be shipped from Albany Port. Transport from the mine

Albany Borefields

Proponent: Water Corporation

Value: \$24 million

Location: Albany

Description: A series of new bores will be constructed to improve the spread of groundwater withdrawal points. Up to 25 old bores will be replaced due to ageing, clogging and deterioration. The expansion and improvement of the borefield is required to meet the needs of increasing population and seasonal water demands.

Status: Commencing early 2012.

Contact: Allan Waugh - Project Manager

Address: PO Box 100, Leederville, WA 6902

Telephone: (08) 9420 3131

Major Projects Supplement

Anzac Interpretive Centre

Proponent: Albany Centenary Anzac Alliance (City of Albany / RSL)

Value: \$9 million

Location: Albany

Description: Construction of Anzac Interpretive Centre on Mt Clarence to commemorate and celebrate our Anzac heritage and pay homage to our Anzac forebears.

Status: So far the Commonwealth Government has committed a total of \$6.55 million in funding for design and construction. The centre is due to be completed by November 2014.

Contact: Anthony McEwan, Director of Major Projects

Address: PO Box 484, Albany, WA 6330

Telephone: (08) 9841 9333

Fax: (08) 9841 4099

Email: anthonym@albany.wa.gov.au

Website: www.albany.wa.gov.au



Albany's Mount Clarence lookout (top) and the Munda Biddi Trail (bottom).

Denmark Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Proponent: Water Corporation

Value: \$7.3 million

Location: Denmark

Description: An upgrade to Denmark's Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet future community needs. Includes the construction of an oxidation ditch, new inlet works, a reactor ditch to circulate and oxygenate wastewater, a large circular clarifier for the sludge, and a new laboratory.

Status: Works due to commence in November 2012 and be completed in 2014.

Contact: Derek Duffy, Project Manager

Address: PO Box 100, Leederville, WA 6902

Telephone: (08) 9420 3276

Fax: (08) 9423 7722

Email: derek.duffy@watercorporation.com.au

Website: www.watercorporation.com.au

Munda Biddi Trail Extension

Proponent: Munda Biddi Trail Foundation and Department of Environment and Conservation

Value: \$6.2 million

Location: Nannup to Walpole (SW region), Walpole to Albany (GS region)

Description: Extension of the Munda Biddi off-road bicycle trail from Nannup to Albany with a focus on enhancing tourism small business opportunities via a Community Development Program. The project is receiving \$3 million in Royalties for Regions funding (\$1.5 million each through the GSDC and the SWDC).

Status: Albany to Denmark section complete. Approvals are being finalised for Denmark to Walpole section. The Community Development Program is also under way. Overall project due for completion on Q1/2013.

Contact: Crystal Reed, Executive Officer

Address: PO Box 7445 Cloisters Square, WA 6850

Telephone: (08) 9481 2483

Email: execofficer@mundabiddi.org.au

Website: www.mundabiddi.org.au

UWA Albany Sciences Building

Proponent: University of Western Australia

Value: \$7.4 million

Location: Albany

Description: Construction of a new 1000 sq m building for teaching, research and offices. Will provide improved capacity for undergraduate teaching and postgraduate studies through CENRM and an expansion of the Rural Clinical School.

Status: Under construction. Due for completion in Q3/2012.

Contact: Jennifer O'Neil, Director

Address: 35 Stirling Terrace, Albany, WA 6330

Telephone: (08) 9842 0801

Email: jennifer.oneil@uwa.edu.au

Website: www.albany.uwa.edu.au

Denmark Community Windfarm

Proponent: Denmark Community Windfarm Ltd

Value: \$5.1 million

Location: Denmark (Wilson Head)

Description: Construction of a two-turbine wind energy facility.

Status: Site works have commenced. Project due for completion by November 2012.

Contact: Craig Chappelle

Address: PO Box 518, Denmark, WA 6333

Telephone: (08) 9848 1150

Email: info@dcw.org.au

Website: www.dcw.org.au

Major Projects Supplement

Yakamia Primary School

Proponent: Department of Education

Value: \$5 million (for Stage 3)

Location: Albany

Description: Staged construction of Yakamia Primary School. Total project cost \$16 million.

Status: Stage 3 due for completion in November 2012.

Contact: Deborah Nowotny

Address: 151 Royal Street, East Perth

Telephone: (08) 9264 4586

Email: deborah.nowotny@education.wa.edu.au

Website: www.det.wa.edu.au

Electricity Capacity Expansion

Proponent: Western Power

Value: \$4.8 million

Location: Albany

Description: As rapid network growth and load increase continues throughout the Albany region there is a requirement to increase the fault level protection across the networks by installing additional protection equipment in multiple feeder locations to protect feeder conductors.

Status: To be completed in 2014/15.

Contact: Shane Adams, South East Regional Manager

Address: 363 Wellington St, Perth, WA 6000

Telephone: (08) 9411 7578

Email: Shane.adams@westernpower.com.au

Website: www.westernpower.com.au

Albany Gas Works Site Remediation

Proponent: LandCorp

Value: \$4.4 million (subject to determination of site use)

Location: Albany

Description: Remediation of former Albany Gas Works site to return it to productive use.

Status: LandCorp is currently undertaking an ecological impact assessment to determine the impact the site's groundwater is having upon the marine environment of Princess Royal Harbour. Upon completion of the assessment, LandCorp will develop a remedial action plan and seek advice from Department of Environment and Conservation, in consultation with the local community. The future land use for the site is yet to be determined and is likely to be influenced by the remedial works required and community input.

Contact: Ben McCarthy, Project Manager

Address: Locked Bag 5, Perth Business Centre, Perth WA, 6849

Telephone: (08) 9482 7475

Fax: (08) 9841 3315

Email: ben.mccarthy@landcorp.com.au

Website: www.landcorp.com.au

Community Housing

Proponent: Great Southern Community Housing Association

Value: \$3.8 million

Location: Albany (Cockburn Rd)

Description: Purchase of land and construction of 12 two-bedroom dwellings for aged or disabled tenants. Part funded by \$1.9 million of Royalties for Regions.

Status: Construction to begin in August 2012 and be completed by June 2013.

Contact: Ian Neil

Address: 1/87 Aberdeen Street, Albany WA 6330

Telephone: 0438 428 697

Fax: (08) 9842 8698

Email: ian@gscha.com.au

Website: www.gscha.com.au

Restoration of Berths 1 and 2

Proponent: Albany Port Authority

Value: \$3.2 million

Location: Albany Port

Description: Berths 1 and 2 are the oldest berths at the port and are in need of restoration to their original design capacity.

Status: Substantial completion of Berth 1 has restored it to its original capacity and achieved the reinstatement of no-load zones on the berth. Restoration work on the critical area (front section) of Berth 2 is well under way. Major catch-up work is expected to be completed within five years but after that time there will be ongoing restoration work to Berths 1 and 2 albeit at a slower rate to complete repairs to the concrete deck and as aging piles deteriorate such that maintenance is required.

Contact: Eric Norman, Wharf Manager

Address: PO Box 175, Albany, WA 6330

Telephone: (08) 9892 9009

Fax: (08) 9841 7566

Email: eric@albanyport.com.au

Website: www.albanyport.com.au



Albany Port.
Photo by
Katrina Bartley.

Major Projects Supplement

Community Housing

Proponent: Great Southern Community Housing Association

Value: \$2.1 million

Location: Albany (Trio Crescent, McKail)

Description: Purchase of land and construction of seven two-bedroom dwellings for aged or disabled tenants.

Status: Subject to finance, construction should begin in July 2012 and be completed by April 2013.

Contact: Ian Neil

Address: 1/87 Aberdeen Street, Albany WA 6330

Telephone: 0438 428 697

Fax: (08) 9842 8698

Email: ian@gscha.com.au

Website: www.gscha.com.au

Morgan Richards Community Centre Refurbishment

Proponent: Shire of Denmark

Value: \$1.1 million

Location: Denmark

Description: Refurbishment and redevelopment of the former Denmark Hospital site to provide integrated community, business, tourism and events facilities.

The facility provides a much-needed co-located 'hub' for regional community and tourism activity by providing integrated spaces for business incubation, festival support, artistic gallery and sales, dynamic regional events, inter-generational and community groups, shared offices and support services.

Status: Funding has been secured for the project and final development approvals are in the process of being sought. Expected completion date late 2013.

Contact: Dale Stewart, CEO, Shire of Denmark

Address: 953 South Coast Highway, Denmark, WA 6333

Telephone: (08) 9848 0300

Fax: (08) 9848 1985

Email: enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au

Website: www.denmark.wa.gov.au

Albany Ring Road Planning

Proponent: Main Roads

Value: \$1 million

Location: Albany

Description: Detailed planning for stages 2 and 3 of the proposed Albany Ring Road. The work will determine future funding requirements.

Status: Stage one of the Albany Ring Road was completed in 2007. Preliminary concept design has been completed for stages 2 and 3. Detailed planning is progressing.

Contact: Andrew Duffield, Regional Manager

Address: PO Box 503, Albany, WA 6330

Telephone: (08) 9892 0555

Fax: (08) 9841 8213

Denmark Environment Centre Redevelopment

Proponent: Denmark Environment Centre

Value: \$1 million

Location: Denmark

Description: Redevelopment of the Denmark Environment Centre building incorporating office and community based spaces.

Status: Planning approval issued in September 2011. Construction anticipated to start in mid to late 2012.

Contact: Diane Harwood

Address: 33-35 Strickland Street, Denmark, WA 6333

Telephone: (08) 9848 1644

Fax: (08) 9848 1248

Email: denviron@denviron.org.au

Website: www.denmarkenvironmentcentre.org.au



Menang Drive was the first stage of the Albany Ring Road.

Wattle fight up in the air

Spray system takes to the sky

The future of the fight against Sydney golden wattle is up in the air, and that is exactly where weed control expert John Moore wants it.

Mr Moore, the 2011 winner of the GSDC Medal for Excellence in NRM, has designed a working prototype of a quadcopter-borne herbicide spray unit that promises to tackle previously unreachable weed infestations.

Sydney golden wattle is the first weed in Mr Moore's sights but his work has applications to other invasive species.

Mr Moore built the prototype HerbiCopter with the assistance of part of the \$10,000 grant he received in the GSDC medal win.

He will use the balance of the grant to study weed control issues in South Africa as they relate to Western Australia.

"The first Sydney golden wattle was recorded in Albany in 1986 and now, in an aerial survey of the same area, one tree in 23 is Sydney golden wattle," Mr Moore said.

"If we don't do more to control it, we estimate that 18 per cent of the bushland in this area will turn to Sydney golden wattle by 2020."

Sydney golden wattle is native to Australia's eastern states but is a major weed threat in the Great Southern.



John Moore's prototype HerbiCopter will help to control Sydney golden wattle this season.

Ground crews using spray equipment can eradicate concentrated infestations of the wattle but isolated trees left untreated could establish major infestations in inaccessible areas.

The HerbiCopter is a clever combination of off-the-shelf rotors, frame and camera combined with wire, circuit boards, GPS unit and proximity sensor that can follow GPS coordinates to fly directly to isolated trees that have been located by aerial observation.

A major part of the work involved in developing the prototype was to create a computer program to reduce the usual GPS margin for error so that the HerbiCopter can fly to within a metre of a specified location.

Once the HerbiCopter hovers over a Sydney golden wattle, the operator working by remote control can confirm the identification of the tree by viewing it with an on-board camera before releasing a burst of finely-misted herbicide spray to kill it. The coordinates of the spray release are recorded so that the site can be revisited in the following year to eliminate regrowth.

Sydney golden wattle is about to enter its flowering season when it is most easily identified. People who are aware of Sydney golden wattle infestations can contact Mr Moore on 0429 669 950 for a free spray bottle of herbicide or other information on eradication.

Contact: Jessica van der Waag
Ph. 9821 3211

Strong support for NRM award

Review of GSDC Medal achievements

A review of the prestigious GSDC Medal for Excellence in Natural Resource Management has revealed continuing strong sector support for the initiative.

In 2011, the GSDC Medal reached a ten-year milestone and the Commission undertook a review of its aims and achievements.

Past recipients, past nominees and a wide range of representatives from the

natural resource management sector were surveyed in April on the award's merits.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said responses to the survey provided valuable feedback.

"It is clear that there is more scope to promote the engagement of agribusiness, industry, local government and community groups with the award process," Mr Manning said.

"Overall the survey showed that people working in NRM regard the medal as promoting a strong sustainability ethos in the Great Southern and providing real value as a regional recognition rather than a state or national award."

Applications for the next GSDC Medal for Excellence in NRM will open early in 2013.

Contact: Jessica van der Waag
Ph. 9821 3211

Photos capture region's essence

Prizes entice top images

Albany photographer Katrina Bartley took top honours at the 2012 GSDC digital photography competition on the theme 'Essence of the Great Southern'.

Ms Bartley's peaceful photo of the Little Grove Jetty won first prize of \$400 from the GSDC and a \$200 print voucher from Albany Camera House. She was also awarded third and fourth prizes and four encouragement awards.

Competition regular Debbie Cristinelli won second prize and two encouragement awards. Neil Barber and Christine Howard won encouragement awards and the Albany Gateway popular vote awards went to Britt Cottrill and Sarah Cornick.

The competition was the fourth run by the GSDC, and contributed a varied collection of photographs that will be used by the Commission to promote the Great Southern.

Photos were judged at the end of April by Albany photographer Malcolm Heberle, Kojonup photographer Wendy Thorn, Albany Camera House proprietor Angela Hooper and GSDC Communications and Development Officer Steve Pontin.

Fewer entries were received this year but the judging panel said the quality was high and many of the images will be put to work on regional promotion.



Katrina Bartley's winning photo of the Little Grove jetty.

Photographers entering the competition grant publication rights for their image to the GSDC for its corporate purposes, but retain copyright to their entries and can make them available to third parties on their own terms.

Photographs entered in past GSDC digital photography competitions have been sought by third parties including media organisations and charities for publications related to the Great Southern.

Contact: Steve Pontin, ph. 9842 4888



Photo competition prize winners, from left, Neil Barber, Britt Cottrill and Debbie Cristinelli at the prize presentation.

New centre put to work

Positive response to Cranbrook refurbishment

Cranbrook's refurbishment of its former bowling club is generating a lot of positive comment in the town.

The vacated clubhouse was revamped with \$93,000 of Royalties for Regions funding through the GSDC's Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme, providing a new home for the Gillamii Centre agriculture improvement group.

Wagin MLA Terry Waldron opened the \$243,000 extension and refurbishment

project on Friday 20 April. The project was also supported by Lotterywest and the Shire of Cranbrook.

Gillamii Centre administration officer Jenny Adams said the improvements had been well received.

"People who knew it as the bowling club are very pleased at the change and are giving us a lot of positive feedback," Ms Adams said. "We have already had a lot of meetings held here, and the new footpath

is on its way out here and that will make it even more accessible."

The footpath through Cranbrook is part of the Shire's Town Centre Enhancement Program, also supported by the GSDC.

Ms Adams said the refurbished building housed the Shire library and the art collection, which helped to attract visitors.

Contact: Jessica van der Waag
Ph. 9821 3211

Wineries travel to gain trade

Hong Kong and Seoul in marketing focus

South Korea and Hong Kong gained a taste of Great Southern fine wine in May and June.

Wineries from the Great Southern took part in GSDC-supported trade trips taking in the world's biggest wine fair, Vinexpo Asia-Pacific in Hong Kong.

Bunn Vineyard, Ferngrove, Forest Hill, West Cape Howe and Xabregas attended Vinexpo and exhibited their wines alongside eastern states wineries in the Wine Australia pavilion.

Export Development Officer Elizabeth Reed accompanied the winery representatives and said the event offered huge potential for building marketing networks.

"More than 15,000 people visited Vinexpo over the three days," Ms Reed said.

"Winery representatives from the Great Southern met trade contacts and reported good results.

"Space was set aside at the Wine Australia pavilion for a seminar room where the Great Southern group helped to deliver wine education to continue growing the knowledge base among the buyers," Ms Reed said.

In Seoul, South Korea, representatives



Travelling wine marketers Irene Bunn, Alice York, Gavin Berry and Paul Byron at the Great Southern stand in the Wine Australia pavilion at Hong Kong.

from Ferngrove, Forest Hill, Hayshed Hill, Plantagenet and West Cape Howe met existing and potential distributors.

Australia is the sixth largest source for Korean wine traders, after Chile, France, Italy, Spain and the USA.

The other nations have trade agreements that result in exemptions from South Korea's 15 per cent import tariff, gaining a trade advantage.

Australia is negotiating a similar agreement and the Great Southern winery representatives hope they will gain the exemption next financial year.

Ms Reed said at least one export order had already been placed as a result of the trip and all the wineries on the visit stood to gain business as the buyers organised stocks after the event.

Contact: Elizabeth Reed, ph. 9842 4888

Community housing boost

Project to provide 12 units

Royalties for Regions funding of \$1.9 million through the Regional Development Council's Action Agenda Fund is set to boost community housing in the Great Southern.

Great Southern Community Housing Association (GSCHA) received the funding to help it deliver a \$3.8 million project to build 12 two-bedroom units for aged or disabled tenants in Albany.

GSCHA Chief Executive Officer Kaz

Sternberg said there was an unmet need for two-bedroom dwellings for public housing tenants and the association's development in Cockburn Road, Albany, would help to meet the deficit.

"Seniors and people with a disability often need two-bedroom accommodation but it is hard to find," Ms Sternberg said.

"The Cockburn Road units will be built to adaptable standards to meet the changing needs of seniors and people with

disabilities, and we are aiming for a six-star sustainability rating."

Ms Sternberg said the association hoped to start the project within the next few months and to have it finished by the middle of 2013.

The Cockburn Road project complements a seven-unit development in Trio Crescent, McKail, which is entirely funded by GSCHA.

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Facilities to attract trainers

Stables and track for Mount Barker racing industry

Mount Barker Turf Club is expanding facilities for horse trainers at Frost Park in a bid to attract business from other regions.

New stables to accommodate eight horses have been built next to the town's race course and the club is now developing a 1300m sand training track.

Club vice president Lyn Heppel said the stables and track would enable local horse trainers to continue their training programs during the football season, when the running rail is removed from the Frost Park race track.

"Mount Barker doesn't have year-round training facilities," Ms Heppel said.

"Providing the new stables and the training track will fill this gap, and we hope to attract trainers to relocate to this region.

"Trainers from the Mid West and Goldfields could use the facilities to continue training their horses during their off-seasons," Ms Heppel said.



The finishing touches are applied to the Mount Barker Turf Club's new training facility stables.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$100,000 through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme supported the \$576,000 project to build the stables and training track.

Irrigation will be installed as part of the project, using water from a dam inside the training circuit to damp down the sand track during training sessions.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said attracting trainers from

other regions would boost Mount Barker businesses that serve the racing industry.

"Local trainers will be able to use the facilities, supporting the existing thoroughbred racing industry in the region," Mr Manning said.

"Opening the facilities to trainers from other regions has the potential to build economic activity in Mount Barker."

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