

Katanning seizes SuperTown status

Big turn-out for community consultation

Talk around Katanning is all about its future as a SuperTown.

Community consultations have been taking place since Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls launched the Katanning SuperTown process on Friday 30 September.

Mr Grylls congratulated the town on the strong turn-out to the launch, which drew more than 250 people, and the keen interest shown in the concept.

"It is time for Katanning and the region to be aspirational about the future," Mr Grylls said.

Mr Grylls said the initiative would help Katanning to take advantage of opportunities created by the expected doubling of Western Australia's population over the next three or four decades.

Katanning is one of nine regional towns named as SuperTowns in July, giving it the opportunity to seek funding for long-term planning and for infrastructure and services projects.

Mr Grylls said the nine SuperTowns were chosen because of their growth potential.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$80 million for projects and \$5.5 million for planning underpins the SuperTowns initiative, formally known as the Regional Centres Development Plan.

The Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) chairs a Katanning SuperTown project management team.

Following the September launch, the Shire of Katanning formed a community reference group and appointed town planning and project management consultants TME to lead the community consultation process.

A public workshop in November attracted a strong crowd and the consultants have subsequently undertaken one-on-one



Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls (right) launched Katanning's SuperTown process in September, accompanied by GSDC Chair Peter Rundle (left), Agricultural MLC Mia Davies and Katanning Shire President Richard Kowald.

appointments with community groups and other stakeholders.

A workshop in December attracted 35 representatives from various State and Federal Government agencies.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said information collated by the consultants will shape strategies for the Shire of Katanning, Landcorp and the GSDC.

"The SuperTown initiative will underpin significant opportunities for Katanning and work in synch with a regional plan for the entire Great Southern," Mr Manning said.

The Shire of Katanning has engaged with surrounding Shires during the SuperTowns consultation phase.

Mr Grylls said the SuperTowns process would not diminish funding to existing programs in the region and would have a positive flow-on effect to other regional towns.

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ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS

Festival program revealed

Exciting line-up for tenth Great Southern Festival

Ten years along, the Great Southern Festival is going from strength to strength.

Initiated in 2003 by the GSDC and the Perth International Arts Festival, the Great Southern Festival is the only regional program of Perth Festival events.

New artistic director Jonathan Holloway outlined the 2012 program at a launch at the Albany Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 23 November.

Mr Holloway said his first festival would provide exciting and enriching experiences for patrons.

The program for 2012 is a fitting line-up to mark the festival's tenth outing, starting with a free dusk ceremony at the Anzac Peace Park on the Albany foreshore on Friday 10 February at 7pm.

From the next day, festival events including



Perth International Arts Festival artistic director Jonathan Holloway presented the Great Southern Festival program at a sunset event at the Albany Entertainment Centre in November.

music, theatre, literature, art and cinema roll out at a range of venues in Albany, Denmark and Katanning.

Highlights include exquisite classical music from the Escher String Quartet and, in

contrast, Congolese street music from Staff Benda Bilili, a group of paraplegic musicians blending rumba with 70s funk, Cuban son and mambo.

Theatre events include Jack Charles v the Crown, a warm-hearted tale in which Jack Charles tells his own story of drug addiction, crime, acting and Aboriginal activism.

Voice is the focus of the ever-popular Playmakers series in 2012, featuring workshops and performances from Suade, the Magnets and Ruby Philogene.

The Great Southern Festival is supported by \$225,000 of Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme, as three-year funding covering festivals from 2011 to 2013.

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Wine producers tempt Taiwan

Great Southern profile on the rise

Great Southern wineries continued their push into Asian markets in November, including the relatively new destination of Taiwan.

Supported by the GSDC and Austrade, six regional wineries promoted their products in Taipei and Hong Kong from November 3 to 7.

GSDC Export Development Officer Elizabeth Reed accompanied the delegation and said the Hong Kong visit took in the 2011 Hong Kong International Wine and Spirit Fair, a key wine marketing event attended by thousands of delegates.

Ms Reed said the Taipei opportunity was a smaller, targeted tasting for about 80 invited guests including trade



Forest Hill general manager Paul Byron introduces the winery's range in Taiwan.

representatives, media, educators and premium customers.

"Many attendees had tried South Australian wines but were keen to explore Western Australian wine as they were seen to be of a higher quality," Ms Reed said.

"The Great Southern's cooler climate tends to produce more elegant styles, which are better suited to Taiwanese cuisine, with its French and Japanese influences."

Contacts made at the event are still being explored by the producers, and Ms Reed said their experience in Taiwan would contribute to efforts to enter other developing markets of Korea and Vietnam in 2012.

Exposure at the Hong Kong event helped to raise the profile of Great Southern wines and resulted in significant orders.

Great Southern riesling was highlighted at a masterclass in Hong Kong.

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Activ workers welcome Minister

Improved workplace in full production

Fifty people with disabilities have a better workplace in Albany following the completion of Activ's warehouse construction and fit-out projects.

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls and South West MLC Colin Holt opened the new facility in Minna Street, Albany, on Friday 9 December.

Activ built the \$1.2 million facility with support through the GSDC under the previous State Government, and the \$190,000 fit-out of the centre gained \$95,000 of Royalties for Regions funding through the GSDC's Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme (RGS).

Mr Grylls said the government had a strong commitment to people with disabilities and recognised the contribution that people at Activ made to the community and the regional economy.

"It is important that you have good facilities that allow you to be the strong and successful organisation that you are," Mr Grylls said.

To perform the unveiling of a plaque



Activ Business Manager John Embleton showed Minister Grylls and GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle through the new work facility.

marking the occasion, Mr Grylls invited Activ worker Kayla Macdonald to join him and Mr Holt for the official moment.

Mr Holt congratulated Activ on achieving fifty years of work in Albany, celebrated recently during Disability Week.

Activ's Minna Street premises now boasts a 1300 sq m production facility that houses its timber products, packaging and textile workers.

The fit-out funded through the RGS included shelving and racking, moving and installing dust extraction equipment and treating the floor of the building.

Major activities include making pallets and bins for exporters, using certified pine timber that must be traceable to source.

Mr Grylls and Mr Holt, and an official party including Activ Chief Executive Officer Tony Vis, O'Connor MHR Tony Crook and GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle, toured the facility and chatted to the Activ workers.

Tasks under way included the manufacture of pallets and lattice, and repackaging 28,000 bottles of wine to export standard.

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Minister Grylls invited Activ worker Kayla Macdonald to join him and South West MLC Colin Holt for the unveiling ceremony.



GSDC festive season closure

GSDC offices in Albany and Katanning will close for the Christmas break at 5pm on Friday 23 December, and reopen on Tuesday 3 January.

Board and staff members wish all project partners and supporters compliments of the season and look forward to working together constructively in 2012.

Landscapes forum for Albany

National attention for Great South West Edge

Albany will host the 2012 National Landscapes forum, bringing national delegates to the Great South West Edge for the first time.

Australia's Great South West Edge was recently named a National Landscape, taking in the coast and immediate hinterland from Busselton's tuart forests to Cape Arid east of Esperance.

Tourism WA Chief Executive Officer Stephanie Buckland officially launched the Great South West Edge at a function at the Tree Top Walk in November.

National parks, beaches and granite coast are characteristic of the richly biodiverse Great South West Edge, and Albany is well located to highlight these attractions at the national body's annual forum next year.

The forum brings up to 50 delegates from National Landscapes, including Ningaloo-Shark Bay and the Kimberley in Western Australia, and from related agencies.



Tourism WA Chief Executive Officer Stephanie Buckland and Great South West Edge National Landscapes steering committee chair Ross MacCulloch at the Tree Top Walk.

The National Landscape program was started by Tourism Australian and Parks Australia to promote destinations recognised as Australia's most significant natural environments.

National Landscapes benefit from targeted promotions aimed at the lucrative 'global experience seeker' tourist market.

Nomination of the Great South West Edge

was supported by the GSDC, Department of Environment and Conservation and neighbouring Development Commissions.

A consultant is being sought to prepare an experience development strategy to guide the creation of tourism products and infrastructure to complement the National Landscape status.

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Borden updates sporting precinct

Six codes benefit from consolidation project

Borden is giving its sporting precinct a major makeover with support from Royalties for Regions through the Great Southern Regional Development Scheme (RGS).

A project to consolidate and update sporting infrastructure around the Borden Pavilion gained \$140,000 of funding in the third round of the RGS, enabling the pavilion committee to push ahead with a \$967,000 plan to improve facilities for six sporting codes.

Gnowangerup Shire President Kerry Stone said the improvements would cover a majority of Borden's sport and recreational needs.

"Football, tennis, cricket, netball, hockey,



Gnowangerup Shire President Kerry Stone and Borden Pavilion Committee member Rebecca O'Meehan at the town's tennis courts, soon to be the site of new bowling greens.

bowls and basketball are all currently catered for around the purpose-built Borden Pavilion," Mrs Stone said.

"However, some of the surfaces have deteriorated, there is no cricket practice

wicket and the bowling club has an outdated clubroom and labour-intensive heavy grass surface.

"Almost the whole community takes part in one sport or another on a Saturday, either playing, officiating, volunteering or watching, and the precinct development ensures the pavilion will continue to be at the centre of that social activity."

Improvements include new tennis and netball courts, better lighting and synthetic bowling greens. The project, also supported by the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Shire of Gnowangerup, is due for completion in early 2013.

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Community centre draws praise

Superb facilities for Mount Barker

Mount Barker has opened its upgraded community centre, drawing praise as a fine example of the benefits of partnerships.

Initiated by the Baptist Church and supported with Royalties for Regions funding by the GSDC through the Regional Grants Scheme, the centre incorporates the Shire of Plantagenet library and provides an office base for a range of community and government agencies.

Centre manager Stephen Shoebridge said the centre had drawn enthusiastic responses from users even before the official opening on Friday 18 November.

"We have all the communication capabilities of a Community Resource Centre but we are very different from most others because of the size and scope of services within the building," Mr Shoebridge said.



Foodbank coordinator Hazel Rutter with a selection of goods typical of a \$20 emergency relief voucher.

"People don't expect to find something of this size and scope in rural Australia, and we are getting a lot of interest and bookings.

"We can offer everything from a standard office up to an auditorium or a board room, and our commercial kitchen will become available early next year," Mr Shoebridge said.

Youth programs at the centre include Homework Clubs for primary and secondary students during the school term.

Foodbank operates from the centre, opening three days a week to provide food assistance to people in need.

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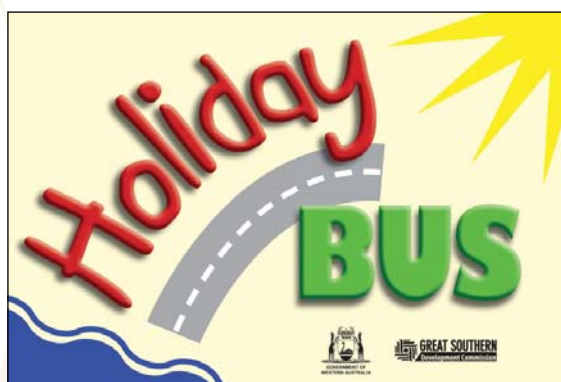
Bus service supports families

Teenagers can enjoy summer fun

Every summer for the past ten years, the GSDC has given a helping hand to families in inland towns by supporting a low-cost, twice-weekly bus service to the coast.

The Holiday Bus enables teenagers and accompanied younger children to travel to Albany to escape the heat and enjoy summer activities.

From January 3 to 26, the Holiday Bus will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays at a cost of \$5 per trip.



The Holiday Bus has a new look this summer.

Each bus run starts and ends in Wagin and takes in all towns along the Great Southern Highway, and also stops at the Kendenup Westrail stop and in Mount Barker.

In Albany, the service drops off and picks up in the city centre and at the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre, the cinema and Middleton Beach.

Holiday Bus coordinator Karina Taylor said the service was available to unaccompanied young people aged 14 to 18 years.

"Younger teens and primary school-age children can also travel on the bus if they are accompanied by a responsible adult," Ms Taylor said.

"Passengers from outlying towns are welcome to join the service if they can get transport to and from one of the pick-up points along the route.

"In its ten years of operation, the Holiday Bus has helped hundreds of young people from inland parts of the Great Southern to enjoy summer activities in Albany," Ms Taylor said.

Cargo bays on the Nichols coach are big enough to allow passengers to bring BMX bikes, skateboards, body boards and surfboards.

The service is supported by the GSDC in order to strengthen families and build sustainable communities in regional towns.

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Fresh life for old bowling club

Cranbrook gains community centre

Cranbrook's old bowling club is getting a makeover that will create a new community centre with a focus on sustainable agriculture.

With \$93,000 of Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme funding through the GSDC, and support from Lotterywest and the Shire of Cranbrook, the Gillamii Centre is relocating from its current office to the old bowling club.

The relocation is part of providing a multipurpose community centre that will also house the Shire library and include office space and meeting rooms.

Gillamii Centre Chair Ian Walsh said the development offered a bigger and better headquarters for the sustainable agriculture group, and could evolve into a full community resource centre.

"We want to use the old bowling greens in a constructive way," Mr Walsh said.

"Options include trials of perennials,



Gillamii Centre administration officer Jenny Adams and Chairman Ian Walsh have plans for Cranbrook's former bowling club.

a community garden and wildflower displays for tourists."

Cranbrook's bowling club is now located at the town's Frederick Square sports precinct.

The Gillamii Centre promotes sustainable agriculture through field days, workshops and other community events.

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GSDC's new staff

Two new staff members have joined the GSDC in recent months.

Katika Jones is the GSDC's new finance assistant. Her role is to help in the administration of financial processes.

Katika spent her early years in Southern Cross, where her parents were school teachers.

She subsequently attended Great Southern Grammar and went on to gain a business certificate.

Katika is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys the beach and, with her family, has undertaken the Canning Stock Route and other challenging four-wheel drive journeys.



Katika Jones



Michelle Dayman

Her role is to coordinate grant processes and work with groups on community-based projects.

Michelle studied hospitality and tested the water in journalism before deciding to take on recent positions.

Michelle's most recent previous position was with the City of Albany, where she was responsible for organising events such as the Christmas Pageant.

Michelle Dayman joined the staff of the GSDC in November as a Development Officer and Grants Coordinator.

Michelle is Albany born and bred. Her family are keen water skiers and Michelle is well known for her skill and daring in the sport.

Art tells waterfront story

Interpretive pieces use Town Jetty timbers

Granite, timber and steel are taking shape in a yard near Princess Royal Harbour to form the latest elements of LandCorp's Albany Waterfront heritage and town jetty interpretation.

The Albany Waterfront project was supported for a decade through the GSDC's Albany office.

Public art and interpretive elements for the waterfront were designed by LandCorp's heritage consultant H and H Architects, and will be installed under the direction of architect David Heaver.

Mr Heaver said the art and interpretation will add to visitors' enjoyment and appreciation of the history and heritage of the waterfront precinct.

The heritage and art work is based on the heritage and jetty interpretation plans prepared for and approved by the Heritage Council of WA as a condition of approving the foreshore development.

Mr Heaver said major interpretive elements would mark four phases in the waterfront's history: welcome; sealing and whaling; telegraph, railway, steam and port; and settlement.

"Granite boulders recovered during works by the City of Albany will carry interpretive information from Noongar people, presented on digitally printed glass panels," Mr Heaver said.



Construction coordinator Lawrence Cuthbert and project manager David Heaver among the boulders, timber and steel elements of the waterfront art and heritage interpretation.

"Messages from and about Noongar people will be displayed in Noongar and English.

"Timbers from the former Town Jetty are used extensively in other interpretive installations, which will feature glass panels mounted on wooden pylons and bearers.

"Seats featuring jetty timbers will mark the route of the rail line used to transport goods to and from the jetty," Mr Heaver said.

Awarded local sculptor Kevin Draper is preparing a public art work to be placed on the breakwater marking its connection with the former Town Jetty.

Public art near the Albany Entertainment Centre, by Audrey and Arif Satar, will include QR codes, enabling people with QR-enabled phones to access sound and vision about the precinct.

All works are expected to be finished in March 2012.

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Tourism honours for Great Southern

Lowlands business in Hall of Fame

Great Southern tourism enterprises were prominent in the prestigious Perth Airport Western Australian Tourism Awards, announced in November.

Cape Howe Cottages, a regular winner in previous years, was inducted into the WA Tourism Awards Hall of Fame.

David and Gaynor Clarke's Lowlands

tourist accommodation was the first Great Southern-based business to achieve Hall of Fame membership.

Taste Great Southern, supported by the GSDC, won bronze in the Major Festivals and Events category.

The Bibbulmun Track won silver in the Tourist Attractions category and Out of

Sight Tours won Bronze in the Ecotourism category.

Other Tourism Awards honours for the Great Southern went to Helen Nash, The Lake House Denmark, Middleton Beach Holiday Park, Pelicans at Denmark and The Rocks, Albany.

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Pride in Noongar heritage

Cultural centre takes shape in Gnowangerup

A former Baptist minister's home is being transformed into a focal point for Noongar cultural pride in Gnowangerup.

Restoration work and landscaping is under way to create the Gnowangerup Cultural Heritage Centre, which will hold displays of artworks and cultural artefacts associated with local Noongar heritage and with the Gnowangerup Mission.

The project is supported by the GSDC, Lotterywest, Regional Development and Lands, the Department for Culture and the Arts and the Shire of Gnowangerup.

Four Gnowangerup Noongar workers are employed part-time on the development, under the supervision of project manager Lawrence Cuthbert.

Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation chairman Robbie Miniter said the project was having a positive impact on the workers.

"Heritage is significant among all Aboriginal people, including among people who have moved away," Mr Miniter said.



Gnowangerup's Jerome Williams is part of the work crew for the Cultural Heritage Centre project.

"Putting Aboriginal cultural heritage on display builds self-esteem and makes people want to return and reconnect to where they came from."

Displays at the heritage centre will include Aboriginal art, along with photos and mementoes associated with Noongar life.

Mr Miniter said non-Noongar families had offered artifacts such as stone cutting

implements from personal collections of material found on local farms.

Exterior works will be finished by early in 2012 and the fit-out of the heritage centre will follow, pending the completion of cultural research that will help in the creation of the centre's displays.

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