

Agencies sign for mutual help

Agreement to strengthen GSDC, CRCs

A regional meeting of the Board of the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) in Borden in May was the setting for a groundbreaking agreement between the Commission and the region's community resource centres (CRCs).

The Great Southern CRCs, formerly known as telecentres, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the GSDC setting guidelines for the organisations to support each other's work in the region.

Community Resource Network Director Debbie Rice said the signing was a momentous occasion.

"It highlights the promotion of the partnership between the GSDC and the CRCs in the provision of increased information and services to their local communities," Ms Rice said.

"We value the lead set by the GSDC in instigating this agreement, which shows a growing connection between the organisations.

"Royalties for Regions funding for the CRCs and for projects under the GSDC is helping to build partnerships to strengthen regional communities," Ms Rice said.

The Memorandum of Understanding commits the agencies to collaborate on matters of regional significance, to meet for information exchange and to share opportunities for staff professional development.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the Commission had agreed to ensure that the CRCs were included in information distribution and to advocate for the CRCs.

Gnowangerup CRC Chairperson Jill Lesk signs the Memorandum of Understanding, watched by CRC regional coordinator Megan Wright and GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle.



"The memorandum also commits the GSDC to refer potential clients for CRC services to the relevant centre and to consider proposals supporting training and learning opportunities delivered through the centres," Mr Manning said.

"In turn, the CRCs have committed to helping the GSDC with community engagement at a local level, providing advice on emerging issues and opportunities and being a shopfront for GSDC information.

"This is a mutually beneficial arrangement for our organisations and it will work to the benefit of the people of the Great Southern," Mr Manning said.

CRCs continue to be eligible to apply for funding through the GSDC under existing grant guidelines.

The agreement takes in CRCs in Bremer Bay, Denmark, Frankland River, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kojonup, Mount Barker, Ongerup, Pingrup, Tambellup and Wellstead.

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Borden residents give local angle

Board provides opportunity for community input

Borden residents and representatives from the Shire of Gnowangerup took up the opportunity to raise a few local issues with GSDC Board members when they met in Borden in May.

After the Board's formal meeting, held at the Borden Pavilion, locals were invited to speak on matters of interest.

The invitation to address the gathering continued the GSDC Board's practice of holding meetings in towns throughout the region to ensure that all communities have an opportunity for face-to-face contact with Board members.

In 2009, meetings were held in Bremer Bay, Nornalup, Katanning and Frankland River, and the February 2010 meeting was held in Tambellup.

Gnowangerup Shire Chief Executive Officer updated the Board on developments in



Gnowangerup Shire CEO Aaron Cook addresses the GSDC Board and community members at the Borden Pavilion.

the area and several Borden residents also had their say.

They said they appreciated the Board's

practice of meeting in regional towns to ensure local voices could be heard.

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Joint effort by sports clubs

Jerramungup groups collaborate on facilities

Royalties for Regions Funding has given the Jerramungup Combined Sporting Clubs a boost in time for the start of the winter sports season.

At the Jerramungup Golf Club opening day on 25 April, players enjoyed their rounds on upgraded fairways, three with new bridges.

When football fixtures kicked off with a close game between Jerramungup and Gnowangerup, spectators and players benefited from works at the winter pavilion

including the hockey-cricket shed (with covered spectator area), tiered viewing area and disability access including safety ramp and disabled toilet.

Improvements to the sports club are under way and will improve the interior of the club by providing a new disabled toilet, a fresco area and children's playground.

The works were funded by a grant of \$145,000 from the Royalties for Regions Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme, which was matched by the respective

clubs to upgrade the entire sporting and cultural precinct.

The Jerramungup Sports Club is administering the grant on behalf of the combined sporting clubs. Club president John Usher praised the cooperation received from all of the participating clubs.

"This project has set a new standard for our community which will augur well for the future," Mr Usher said.

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Entries in for NRM Medal

Judges sort through the contenders

Judging has started for the 2010 GSDC Medal for Excellence in NRM.

Entries for the prestigious natural resource management award closed in

May and the panel of judges have started their preliminary assessments.

Full judging will take place early in July and the medal winner will be announced

by Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman on Thursday 26 August.

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Review of Development Commissions

Minister announces scrutiny of 'important role'

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls has announced a review of Western Australia's nine Regional Development Commissions, including the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

The Commissions were established under the Regional Development Commissions Act in 1993 as statutory authorities charged with coordinating and promoting regional economic development.

Mr Grylls said the commissions played an important role in delivering projects throughout Western Australia.

The review is chaired by Parliamentary

Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development Wendy Duncan MLC.

Its members are Chief of Staff to the Minister for Regional Development Doug Cunningham, Regional Development Council Chair Graham Thomson, Public Sector Commissioner Mal Wauchope and Department of Regional Development and Lands Director General Paul Rosair.

The review group will release an issues paper for comment to guide its deliberations before it reports to the Minister in September 2010.

Mr Grylls said the review would consider the effectiveness and cost efficiency of

the Commissions and the effectiveness of the existing model in delivering regional development.

It would also look at options to improve government service delivery for regional development, including effective governance and administrative arrangements to enable regional decision-making and avoid duplication of roles and responsibilities with other agencies.

The terms of reference for the review are on the Department of Regional Development and Lands website at www.rdl.wa.gov.au.

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New Board member welcomed

Cranbrook Shire President appointed

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle has welcomed the appointment of new Board member Doug Forrest.

Mr Forrest is a farmer, road transport contractor and company director who became President of the Shire of Cranbrook last year.

Mr Forrest was appointed to the Board in the local government category.

"The Board looks forward to Mr Forrest's contribution to our work promoting development in the Great Southern," Mr Rundle said.

"Mr Forrest is active in the farming and business community at Cranbrook and Frankland.

"He has good local knowledge and wider regional experience, and brings a range of talents that will benefit the Board," Mr Rundle said.

Mr Forrest was a Busselton Shire Councillor from 1996 to early 2000 and was elected to the Cranbrook Shire Council in 2005.

He has represented the Shire in a range of forums including the Regional Road Group,



New GSDC Board member Doug Forrest

Bushfire Advisory Committee and as a WALGA Zone delegate.

He is an active contributor to the district's sporting clubs and to industry groups, including as a former branch president of the WA Farmers Federation and as a growers' representative for the CBH Cranbrook receival point.

Mr Forrest is a grain and beef cattle producer at West Cranbrook.

Mr Forrest's GSDC Board term expires in June 2012.

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Regional science on stage

Conference highlights research directions

Science with a Great Southern focus will take centre stage on 9 July at the Great Southern, Great Science conference at the Albany Town Hall.

With support from the Great Southern Development Commission through the Regional Development Scheme, the conference hosted by the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management will showcase science that is relevant to or taking place in the Great Southern.

Local researchers will share the spotlight with visiting scientists such as WA Chief Scientist Professor Lyn Beazley, Griffith

University Professor Stuart Bunn and Charles Darwin University Professor Michael Douglas.

Professor Bunn, the director of the Australian Rivers Institute, will present a paper on monitoring river health.

Professor Douglas is an expert on freshwater ecosystems. He will present a paper on indigenous involvement in tropical river research.

Presentations at the conference will cover natural resource management, ecology, fisheries, agriculture, health and conservation.

Further information is available at www.cenrm.uwa.edu.au.

Full registration costs \$71.50 but discounts are available for registrations before 16 June and for students. The ticket price includes morning and afternoon teas, lunch and evening drinks.

Tickets are available through the Town Hall Box Office.

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Great Southern people in focus

Photo competition offers cash prizes

People of the Great Southern were in focus in June as the GSDC's new digital photo competition drew a host of entries.

Following last year's successful Great Southern at Work competition, the GSDC once again joined forces with Albany Gateway to offer cash prizes to the region's photographers for images depicting life the Great Southern.

This year's theme was 'Great Southern People on the Go' and dozens of photographers responded to the call for entries.

The competition opened on Friday 14 May and closed on Friday 11 June.

To be eligible for part of the GSDC's \$1000 prize pool, the photo had to have been taken in the Great Southern and had to show people at work or at leisure.

Independent judges including a professional photographer will judge the competition and winners will be announced in July.

Gateway's registered users still have time



Colin Richardson won last year's GSDC digital photo competition with this image of grain unloading operations at the CBH terminal at Albany Port.

to vote for their most popular photos, for which two winners will receive \$50 cash prizes.

Entries can be viewed on Albany Gateway by following the link to the photo gallery

and clicking on Great Southern People on the Go.

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Woodanilling celebrates sport facilities

Makeover for recreation precinct

Woodanilling residents have welcomed new and improved recreation facilities that will help to encourage active lifestyles.

Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) contributed \$145,000 to the \$1 million project that provided lighting for the town's oval and tennis courts, resurfaced the tennis courts and upgraded the recreation shed and cricket practice nets.

Gym equipment, new playground equipment and shade sails were provided through the project, and the Woodanilling Sport and Recreation Association acquired a new bowling machine to help train local cricketers.

RGS funding was augmented by the association's own funds and in-kind support, along with funding from the Shire of Woodanilling and the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund.

Sport and Recreation Minister Terry Waldron opened the new and upgraded facilities on Saturday 22 May.

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Woodanilling residents and visitors explore the new facilities in the town's recreation precinct on the opening day.

New home for Activ workers

Warehouse and work space nears completion

A new warehouse and centre for people with disabilities is taking shape in Albany's Minna Street.

Activ Industries produces a range of garden furniture and latticework at the premises but needed more room to accommodate its growing enterprise.

Thanks to a Regional Development Scheme grant through the Great Southern Development Commission, Activ has put up a 1400 sq m warehouse that will provide up-to-date facilities for its workers.

Activ manager business services Alan Hortin said the project would enable the organisation's 53 workers to deliver better services.

"Our timber products division will move to the new building, along with industrial services," Mr Hortin said. "The existing building at the front of the Minna Street site will house the administration, canteen and the textiles division."



Activ Industries' new warehouse in Minna Street Albany provides the organisation with 1400 sq m of floor space.

Mr Hortin said Activ would move out of its existing Spencer Street premises when the new building was finished. Activ produces pallets, gazebos, garden furniture and latticework through its

timber division, and supplies brochure-folding, cut rags and kindling through its industrial services.

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Festival season a success

Local produce and international talent

A successful Great Southern festival season concluded in April, featuring a range of events supported by the GSDC.

Funding was provided through the Regional Development Scheme for the Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF) Great Southern Program and the thousands-strong Ulysses Annual General Meeting in March.

The GSDC has been the main sponsor of the PIAF regional program since the inaugural event in 2003.

The 2010 program in February and March was another success, featuring the Hypnotic Brass Ensemble, Portico Quartet, Hilliard Ensemble and singer-songwriter Kristina Olsen.

Taste Great Southern, funded by Royalties for Regions through the Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) Small Grants Program, and the GSDC-supported Festival of the Sea also provided great experiences for locals and visitors.

In April, Albany hosted Harboursound and Great Southern Food and Wine Festival as twin events on consecutive days in a shared marquee on the library lawn off York Street. Both events were funded through the RGS Small Grants Program.

GSDC Development Officer Linsey McFarlane said the commission supported the events as they provided an opportunity for regional communities to experience a wide range of world class

food, wine and entertainment, and access professional development opportunities for local artists and performers.

"Events also provide an opportunity for the Great Southern to market the region's outstanding quality of food, wine, arts, history and natural attractions to state and national audiences, solidifying the region as a premium tourism destination," Ms McFarlane said.

"Increased tourism visitation over the festival months provides a boost for local businesses and tourism operators and supports cultural development for communities."

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Wind instrument virtuoso Linsey Pollak (above) entertained Harboursound audiences, as did local men's a capella group Southern Right Males (above right). Appreciative wine and food connoisseurs, including Albany resident Duncan Brothers (right), enjoyed the range of produce at the Great Southern Wine and Food Festival.



Medical centre has a new look

Project improves facilities for patients and staff

Royalties for Regions funding has helped to upgrade Gnowangerup's medical centre to provide an up-to-date facility for staff and patients.

Gnowangerup Shire received \$120,000 towards the upgrade through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme and funded the balance of the \$230,000 project through other resources.

The upgraded centre has more room for consultations, better facilities for staff, improved security and increased storage space for records and other materials.

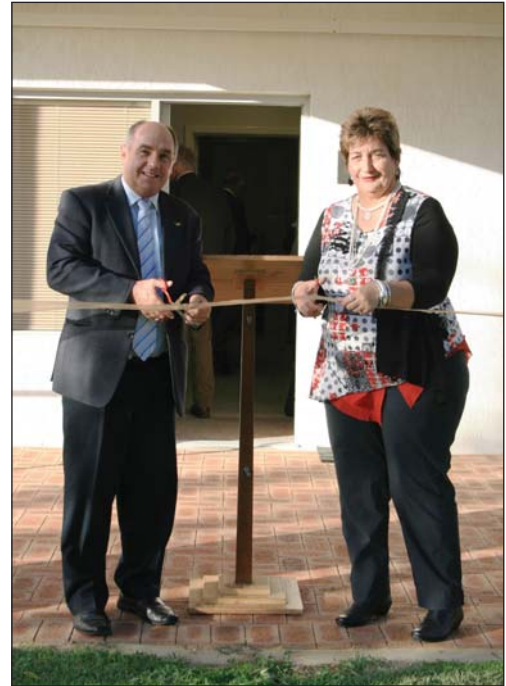
Wagin MLA Terry Waldron officially opened the project in April.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the improvements would directly help medical staff and patients in Gnowangerup, and benefit the entire community.

"Through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme, the GSDC supports improvements to local services that build the capacity of regional communities," Mr Manning said.

"Maintaining health services at a reasonable standard is part of enhancing the sustainability of rural towns."

Wagin MLA Terry Waldron and Gnowangerup Shire President Kerry Stone cut the ribbon to open the upgraded medical centre.



Upgrading the medical centre doubled the size of the main consulting room and provided a second consulting room for visiting specialists.

The extra consulting room will enable the practice to approach various allied health providers with the aim of enticing

additional services to Gnowangerup and surrounds. The reception area is more secure for the practice manager and receptionists, as well as for the records and computer systems, and people with disabilities have better toilet access.

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Vietnamese tap into local leadership

Students examine forestry management

Forestry management students from Vietnam tapped into the leadership experience of the GSDC in May.

A group of ten students took in a visit to Pymont House as part of a fellowship program looking at forest management in Western Australia. Senior Development Officer Duane Schouten explained the role of the GSDC.

Hanson Executive Management Director Claire Hanson taught the fellowship holders an accredited course called Certificate 1 in Leadership Development as part of their Forestry Fellowship.

Ms Hanson said the regional perspective provided by Mr Schouten's presentation was valued by the students.

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Hanson Executive Management Director Claire Hanson and Great Southern Institute of Technology's Andrew Nicholson with Vietnamese fellowship participant Nguyen Thu Ha.

International promotion for local wines

Marketing boosts at home and abroad

Great Southern wines gained international promotion in April, both here and in Singapore.

With support from the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and facilitated by TradeStart, eight Great Southern producers took part in a Great Southern wines stand at the Food and Hotel Asia (FHA) food, wine and hospitality event from 20 to 23 April.

Not long before, the TradeStart office was busy with a buyer visit to the Great Southern, bringing in ten wine buyers from four countries to learn about the region's products.

TradeStart officer Liz Reed said the two events gained valuable exposure for the region's wines.

The Singapore event gathered an estimated 36,000 food, wine and hospitality professionals from more than 90 countries to examine produce.

The participating wineries were Plantagenet, Alkoomi, Scalawag, Wignalls,



TradeStart officer Liz Reed and Russian buyer Sultan Tarchinskiy, who owns a chain of supermarkets in Moscow and developed an interest in Ironwood Estate Wines Reserve Chardonnay at the Singapore event.

Somerset Hill, Poachers Ridge and Ironwood Estate, along with the Great Southern Distilling Company.

Ms Reed said the buyers who visited the Great Southern earlier in April were impressed by the rugged and natural beauty of the five wine sub-regions and felt that the region was a spectacular destination for international visitors.

"For most of the wine buyers the trip to the Great Southern was an introduction

to a new wine region that highlighted the unique identity and wine styles of individual subregions and varietals – in particular the high quality of pinot noir and Riesling," Ms Reed said.

"They identified similarities in the general style of Shiraz from the region and felt that the wines were distinctive and individual and comparable with the best Shiraz producing regions in Australia."

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Regional Grants Scheme Supplement

Minister announces funding for 31 projects

Initiatives support regional communities

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls last week announced the 31 successful projects funded in the second round of the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme (RGS).

The Great Southern projects are among 233 funded State-wide, with a total project value of more than \$140 million.

Mr Grylls said Royalties for Regions funding would contribute more than \$27 million across regional Western Australia with additional funding provided by local government and the hundreds of organisations - both big and small - supporting regional communities.

"The diversity of the projects receiving funding this year reflects the diversity of the needs and expectations of people in the Great Southern region," Mr Grylls said.

Projects approved for the second round include better surf club facilities in Albany, youth services across the Great Southern, a community-based early intervention program for children 0-4 and a tourist railway project in Kojonup.

A further 19 projects were already approved for Round 2 RGS funding under the Small Grants Program, announced in January and March.

Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Board Chair Peter Rundle said he was pleased to see a range of projects gain funding support through the scheme.

"Minister Grylls' announcement ensures continued improvement in services and infrastructure in the region," Mr Rundle said.

"Albany residents will welcome the decisions to support improvements to the surf club at Middleton Beach, security fencing at the Memorial Park Cemetery and improvements at the Albany Racing Club.

"Youth across the Great Southern, especially in smaller communities, will appreciate activities and information provided by the Youth Mobile Bus and young people in Denmark, Mount



Extensions to the Albany Surf Life Saving Club (above) and development of the Kojonup Tourist Railway (left) are among projects approved in the second round of RGS funding.

Barker and Kendenup will enjoy upgraded recreation facilities.

"Katanning Town Hall will once again become a focus of the town's social and cultural life, with \$69,490 in Royalties for Regions funds helping to redevelop it into a regional entertainment centre.

"The 31 approved projects have the potential to bring positive change into the Great Southern and enhance efforts across the region to build healthier economies in stronger communities," Mr Rundle said.

Other projects to gain support in the second round of the RGS include training facilities at the Mount Barker Turf Club (\$100,000), irrigation and drainage at the Denmark golf course (\$142,700), and expansion of homes for the aged in Gnowangerup (\$150,000).

Kojonup will benefit from \$100,000 for its tourist railway project and \$40,000 in improvements to Apex Park.

Preparation for the centenary of Anzac Day in 2015 will be aided by an upgrade to the Anzac precinct at the summit of Mount Clarence in Albany (\$200,000), and the Perth International Arts Festival Great Southern Program gains funding over a three-year period (\$225,000).

Green energy gets a boost with \$100,000 towards wind monitoring for 150MW of wind power generators in the shires of Kojonup and Broomehill-Tambellup.

Round 2 of the Great Southern RGS drew 73 applications.

Contact Bruce Manning ph. 9842 4888

Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme Round 2

Successful grants in the second round of the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme

Activ Foundation Inc: Fit-out of new/refurbished employment facility in Albany for 53 people with disabilities, \$95,000

Albany Cemetery Board: Memorial Park Cemetery Implementation of Conservation Plan, \$208,000

Albany Racing Club: Replacement administration and changing rooms building for the Albany Racing Club, \$220,000

Albany Surf Life Saving Club: Albany Surf Life Saving clubroom extension, \$650,000

Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd: The Future Hawthorn House Project Feasibility study and business case, \$31,000

Australian Commonwealth Games Association/WA Division: Share the Spirit - 2010 Australian Commonwealth Games (WA) Regional Welcome Home Tour through the region, \$7800

City of Albany: ANZAC Centenary 2014/15 Mount Clarence infrastructure improvements, \$200,000

Denmark Country Club Inc: Redevelopment of Denmark Golf Course and Club House, \$142,700

Green Skills Inc: Denmark Recycling Centre and Tip Shop facilities upgrade, enterprise expansion and education program, \$20,000

Kendenup Community Development Association: Kendenup Recreation Precinct - Stage 1 Skate Park, \$75,000

Kojonup Tourist Railway: Road to Rail Plus Track, \$100,000

Moonies Hill Energy Pty Ltd: 150MW Flat Rocks Wind Farm in Kojonup, \$100,000

Mount Barker Turf Club: Training facilities for the Mount Barker Turf Club, \$100,000

Mungart Boodja Inc: Regional Arts Development Initiative in Katanning, \$21,000



The Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup will assess the feasibility of converting a former Shire office into a regional archive repository.



Royalties for Regions funding will help to preserve and protect Albany's historic Memorial Park Cemetery.

Perth International Arts Festival: PIAF 2011-2013 Great Southern Program, \$225,000

Porongurup Promotions Assoc Inc: Porongurup Range chairlift feasibility study and business plan, \$38,800

Rapid Ascent Pty Ltd: Adventure Race 2010 held in Denmark, \$5000

Rotary Club of Albany East: Rotary Friendship House additional dwelling, \$85,000

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup: Regional Archival Repository Feasibility Study, \$20,000

Shire of Cranbrook: Cranbrook Caravan Park upgrade, \$97,000

Shire of Denmark: Kwoorabup Community Park - Stage 1, \$100,000

Shire of Denmark: Denmark Youth Precinct Development, \$25,000

Shire of Gnowangerup: Expansion of housing Gnowangerup Homes for the Aged, \$150,000

Shire of Katanning: Development of Katanning Regional Entertainment Centre - Stage 1, \$69,490

Shire of Kojonup: Apex Park Improvement Project, \$40,000

Shire of Plantagenet: Mount Barker Youth Park, \$60,000

Shire of Woodanilling: Woodanilling Interpretive Centre, \$65,200

Southern Edge Arts: SEA venue upgrade in Albany, \$31,000

YMCA of Perth Youth and Community Services Inc: Smart Start Early Years Program throughout the region, \$660,000 (comprises \$456,000 RGS grant and \$204,000 strategic project funding)

YMCA of Perth Youth and Community Services Inc: Youth mobile bus service in the shires of Kojonup, Jerramungup, Gnowangerup and Cranbrook, \$100,000

Youth Focus Inc: Engaging and Empowering Young Lives in the shires of Albany, Plantagenet, Denmark, \$50,000