

Grants support 34 projects

Minister announces funding allocations

Community projects in the Great Southern will share more than \$2 million in grants announced recently by Regional Development Minister Terry Redman.

Mr Redman released the grant allocations for the most recent rounds of the Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) and the Community Chest Fund (CCF), both made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions fund.

In Denmark on Friday 15 July, Mr Redman said the allocation of \$555,555 in CCF grants to support 21 projects would help to attract investment, increase job opportunities and improve the quality of life for communities in the Great Southern.

CCF grants are aimed at mid-range community projects and have a maximum grant amount of \$50,000. Amounts delivered in the latest round of the CCF ranged from \$7,000 up to the \$50,000 maximum.

On Wednesday 27 July, Mr Redman announced RGS grants distributing a total of \$1,536,666 that will support 13 projects in the region with allocations from \$50,001 to \$300,000.



Regional Development Minister Terry Redman (third from right) and GSDC Deputy Chair Ross Thornton (left) with RGS grant recipients in Denmark, including representatives of Green Skills, the Denmark Men's Shed, Albany Youth Support Association, Denmark Tourism and Walpole's Ficifolia Community Garden.

Projects supported through the CCF and the RGS include events and programs, infrastructure investments, upgrades to community facilities, and promotion and marketing of the Great Southern.

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New funding rounds open

Two new grant rounds are now open, providing funding opportunities for community, public and not-for-profit organisations in the Great Southern.

The latest rounds of the Community Chest Fund (CCF) and the Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) opened on Monday 1 August.

The CCF will make \$555,556 available to provide grants of up to \$50,000.

Under the RGS, \$1,536,667 will be available for grants from \$50,001 to \$300,000.

Applications for the CCF close at 4pm on Monday 19 September and applications for the RGS close at 4pm on Tuesday 27 September.

Both programs are for projects that help to attract investment, boost job opportunities and improve the quality of life for communities in the region.

Funding through both grant programs will be available from 1 July 2017.

Proposed projects should contribute to achieving the objectives of the funding programs, and consideration will be given to the project's alignment with the *Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint*.

Guidelines and application forms for both funding rounds are available on the GSDC website at www.gsdc.wa.gov.au.

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Student housing boost reflects Blueprint

Region to host more post-secondary students

A new boost to student housing in Albany aligns with targets set in the GSDC's *Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint* for building the region's capacity to host post-secondary students.

On Friday 15 July, Regional Development Minister Terry Redman and Training and Workforce Development Minister Liza Harvey announced \$10.997 million of funding through the Growing Our South initiative, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, for affordable student accommodation at the old Albany Primary School site on Serpentine Road.

The 40-bed facility will be available to students attending local higher education institutions.

The initiative is the second stage of an Affordable Student Accommodation project, identified in the Blueprint as a key component of building strong communities in the region. Stage one was announced in October 2015, providing five four-bed student accommodation units in the Norman House precinct.



Regional Development Minister Terry Redman (left), Training and Workforce Development Minister Liza Harvey and Great Southern Community Housing Association Chairman Peter Adams at the announcement of the student accommodation funding.

Great Southern Community Housing Association is undertaking and financially contributing to both stages of the project, including \$1 million for stage two of the project.

Mr Redman said there was a clear need to support young adults in the region and to give young people good opportunities locally for education and employment.

"This initiative will help retain and attract higher education students who would not

otherwise remain in the region while also broadening the skills base and knowledge pool. This leads to building the capabilities of our regional residents who will be able to improve services and contribute to a strengthened economy," Mr Redman said.

"As people stay in communities longer, so does their involvement in the community. Skill sharing and capacity building occurs not just within the school but throughout the entire regional community. Great Southern Community Housing Association has shown commendable commitment to the regional community by stepping forward to build this facility and

manage it on completion."

Refurbishment of the existing buildings will be included in the development, and the new facilities will be limited to two storeys.

The \$600 million Growing Our South initiative is a five-year program to implement major infrastructure and community projects in the Peel, Wheatbelt, South-West and Great Southern regions.

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Zone will open aquaculture opportunities

Project to enhance investment readiness

A cross-regional project will help to attract investment in aquaculture in the Great Southern and neighbouring regions.

Regional Development Minister Terry Redman and Fisheries Minister Joe Francis visited Albany on Friday 15 July to announce a \$1.66 million project to develop an 'investment ready' aquaculture zone in coastal waters on the south coast.

The South Coast Aquaculture Development Zone project will prepare the way for potential projects across the south coast from Flinders Bay near Augusta to Israelite Bay east of Esperance.

The project, which is made possible by a \$1.3 million Royalties for Regions investment, will be administered by the Department of Fisheries with support from the Great Southern, South West and Goldfields-Esperance Development Commissions.

In alignment with the *Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint*, the project will support large-scale development of the industry, attract investment in the region and increase jobs.

Mr Redman said the strategic investment will capitalise on the increasing importance

of aquaculture in meeting global food demand.

"Aquaculture is the fastest growing primary industry in Australia, however growth rates in WA are constrained because of the cost and time involved in bringing individual aquaculture projects to developmental approval stage," Mr Redman said. "Investing in developing strategic assessments at a zone level removes the uncertainty felt by potential developers and investors and reduces start-up time and financial outlay."

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World seagrass restoration leader honoured

Recognition for innovative contribution

Geoff Bastyan's innovative work to restore degraded seagrass in Albany's harbours has been honoured with the award of the twelfth GSDC Medal.

Regional Development Minister Terry Redman presented Mr Bastyan with the medal at a gala dinner in Albany on Friday 27 May and thanked him for his valuable contribution to the region.

The prestigious GSDC Medal, now awarded every two years, was established by the GSDC in 2001 to celebrate best practice in natural resource management in the region.

Mr Bastyan has won recognition of his pioneering work from such international marine experts as Professor Carlos Duarte, former head of UWA's Oceans Institute. Speaking at a UWA seminar in Albany in November 2012, Professor Duarte said that, to his knowledge, Mr Bastyan was the first person in the world to successfully transplant seagrass.

Mr Bastyan's work started in the 1980s



Regional Development Minister Terry Redman with seagrass restoration pioneer and GSDC Medal winner Geoff Bastyan.

when he began self-funded monitoring of seagrasses in Albany's harbours. He was motivated by his observations of decline in the health of the harbour habitat during his own lifetime.

Prevailing opinion at the time held that degraded seagrass areas could not be repaired but Mr Bastyan demonstrated that seagrass restoration was possible. Subsequent seagrass restoration projects led to substantial improvements in the environmental health of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour

GSDC Deputy Chair Ross Thornton said the award was richly deserved.

"Geoff Bastyan's work shows that one dedicated person can make a difference and deliver natural resource outcomes that benefit everyone, not only in the region but also internationally," Mr Thornton said.

Mr Bastyan receives a \$12,000 grant from the GSDC to undertake further work.

Four finalists were shortlisted for the award this year. The other three finalists, environmental planner Chris Gunby, Woodanilling farmer John Pickford, and Katanning land carers Adrian and Jill Richardson, each receive a \$2,000 grant for further activities in managing the region's natural resources.

The community will have the opportunity to learn more about Mr Bastyan's work at the GSDC Medal Field Day to be held in 2017.

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SEGRA invites registrations

Program details released

Program details are now online for the 2016 SEGRA conference, to be held in Albany and the Great Southern from 26 to 28 October.

Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) conferences are major national forums on regional development issues and attract key representatives from private and public sector organisations.

The Albany and Great Southern event is the organisation's 20th conference, and will explore the theme 'Naturally stronger regions: Realising the potential'.

Keynote speakers include Idris Mootee,

the CEO of a US-based global innovation firm and a specialist in applied design thinking.

Professor Stephen Hopper, former head of Kew Gardens in London and now from the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management in Albany, will speak on the sustainability of land, water and community.

On-line registration is available through www.segra.com.au and can be booked in a range of packages from \$295 for a Friday study tour to \$1295 for the full conference.

SEGRA's conference program is built

around applied regional economic development, drawing out key considerations for applications in multiple regions in various parts of Australia.

Study tours will extend into the region's hinterland, taking in Gnowangerup, Ongerup, Mount Barker, Cranbrook, Frankland River, Denmark and Albany.

The SEGRA conference was secured for the region following a bid coordinated by the GSDC in a 17-strong partnership that included local governments, educational institutions and regional agencies.

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Platform takes visitors over the edge

Facilities support tourism growth

Visitors to The Gap can now walk out over the edge of the awe-inspiring granite cliff and look down at the churning ocean through the grate platform.

Spectacular new viewing facilities at The Gap and Natural Bridge were supported by \$1.2 million through the Growing Our South initiative, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program and secured with the assistance of the GSDC.

The \$6.7 million redevelopment of the site was managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife and included a further \$3.9 million of Royalties for Regions funding.

Tens of thousands of local, interstate and international tourists have visited the popular attraction in Torndirrup National Park near Albany since construction finished in April.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob unveiled a plaque on Thursday 5 May to officially mark the opening of the new world-class facility.

Mr Jacob said there had been overwhelmingly positive feedback about the site from visitors.

"People are extremely impressed with the facilities, the magnificent views of the Southern Ocean and cliff face, and the accessibility," he said.



Visitors to the new viewing platform at The Gap can walk out over the edge of the cliff.

A picnic area at the site features concrete tables with granite seats, and the car park has been improved.

New interpretive signage outlines the geology of the area and the technical details of the challenging construction of the cantilevered viewing platform over The Gap.

A 3D laser survey of the rock formations

helped to identify stable intact rock to anchor the 10m-plus beams that support the platform.

Stainless steel rock anchors were fixed up to 9m deep in the stable rock to secure the support beams, ensuring that the platform has a load capacity that is rated at more than 27 tonnes.

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Bremer to boost town centre capacity

Project to cater for summer influx

Town centre improvements and a new shared-use trail will enhance Bremer Bay for permanent residents and the annual influx of summer visitors.

Bremer Bay has a permanent population of about 500 people but each summer it is home to about 6,000.

The Bremer Bay Town Centre and Trail Project is part of the Shire of Jerramungup's

aim to provide facilities in the town that can cater for the summer population boost.

The Shire of Jerramungup's \$2.2 million project has been allocated funding support of \$1.696 million through the Growing Our South initiative, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

The project includes a civic square with

a village green, a nature play area and a shelter with a long communal table.

Landscaping, street furniture, footpaths, lighting and public art will be installed in the centre of Bremer Bay.

A shared-use trail will link the town centre and the heritage cemetery.

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Film prospects beyond *Breath*

New fund to support regional productions

A new State Government Royalties for Regions initiative holds the prospect of more films being made in the Great Southern, even as the region farewells the production team making the feature film *Breath*.

On Thursday 6 May, while *Breath* was still being filmed, Regional Development Minister Terry Redman, and Culture and the Arts Minister John Day visited the cast and crew at Peaceful Bay to announce the \$16 million Regional Film Fund.

Simon Baker, the star and director of *Breath*, took a break from filming in the surf offshore from Peaceful Bay to join the ministers and waiting media for the announcement.

Mr Baker said the establishment of the fund was a positive move for future film productions. He said the *Breath* project would not have been possible without the funding and networking support provided through the GSDC and ScreenWest.

Mr Redman and Mr Day said the new fund would provide \$16 million over four years to help secure the production of feature films in Western Australia's regions.

Mr Redman said multiple film production



Simon Baker took time out from filming to join Minister Redman, Minister Day and ScreenWest chief executive Ian Booth for the announcement of the Regional Film Fund.

opportunities would drive job creation through local procurement, skill development and tourism.

"The film fund will build on the strengths of regional WA and showcase our extraordinary landscapes, experiences, stories and creative communities," Mr Redman said.

Mr Day said that ScreenWest would

administer the fund and would partner with the state's regional development commissions to market West Australian locations locally and overseas to attract productions.

The GSDC is working with the region's local governments to enhance the Great Southern as a 'film-ready' destination.

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Production team thanks Denmark

Film crew wraps up location shoot

Shooting of the feature film *Breath* is over, leaving Denmark awaiting its next moment in the limelight when the finished product premieres in 2017.

Breath was filmed over a six-week period in April and May, after which the production team left to undertake editing and post-production work.

On their departure, the producers expressed their delight in the welcome they had received from Denmark residents.

In a letter to the town, the producers said the town was the best host imaginable.

"We leave having captured your beautiful surroundings on camera, telling, in collaboration with so many of you, Tim Winton's iconic story," the letter said.

"We were spoilt here, as you are every day, from the homes which were opened to us, to the extraordinary locations, to the finest food, wine and coffee the world has to offer."

The producers thanked the GSDC and the Shire of Denmark for their assistance, along with the many people in support roles, both paid and voluntary, such as emergency services.

Their letter lauded hospitality and service providers, and made particular mention of surfers who stayed off the swell so that filming could take place.

"We have had a remarkable time, shot the best images we possibly could hope for, and look forward to returning to show you the film in 2017," the letter said.

The GSDC worked to secure \$1.5 million in Royalties for Regions funding that helped to clinch the decision to film on location in Denmark.

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Great Southern grants

Funding for regional projects

Community Chest Fund		
Applicant	Project / Activity	Grant
Albany Enterprise Group Incorporated	Albany Business Centre Commercial Kitchen	\$25,000
Albany Junior Soccer Association	Fit out of Centennial Park Western Precinct (soccer and cricket)	\$49,500
Albany Mountain Bike Club	Southern MTB Festival 2016	\$20,000
Albany Occasional Child Care Centre Inc	Albany Occasional Child Care Centre Nature Playground	\$30,000
Albany Youth Support Association	Open Access Youth Arts Studio	\$34,555
Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation	Badgebup Training and Cultural Hub Planning	\$29,400
City of Albany	Lower Great Southern Tourism Development Strategy	\$32,600
Community Living Association	Community Living Association Kitchen Fitout	\$40,000
Denmark Men's Shed Inc	Denmark Men's Shed Planning	\$12,000
Denmark Tourism Incorporated	Taste Great Southern 2017 and 2018	\$50,000
Frankland River Country Club	Frankland River Country Club Kitchen Refurbishment	\$18,500
Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park	Completion of the Twertup Field Studies Centre Restoration	\$24,000
Gnowangerup CRC	Hidden Treasures Rebranding Implementation	\$50,000
Great Southern Wine Producers Association	Great Southern Wine Industry Marketing Material	\$15,000
Green Skills Inc	Great Southern Sustainable Living Festival 2017 and 2018	\$15,000
Princess Royal Sailing Club Inc	PRSC Multi-use Launch Boat (Fishability)	\$13,000
Shire of Cranbrook	Cranbrook Food for Thought Festival	\$15,000
Shire of Katanning	Hidden Treasures Bloom Festival 2016	\$20,000
Shire of Kojonup	Kodja Place Precinct Master Planning	\$40,000
South Coast Natural Resource Management	Science Awareness in the Great Southern	\$7,000
The Vintage Sports Car Club of Western Australia (Inc)	Albany Classic Motor Event 2017	\$15,000
	Total	\$555,555
Regional Grants Scheme		
Applicant	Project / Activity	Grant
Albany Agricultural Society	Centennial Park Infrastructure Project Stage 2	\$121,000
Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Great Southern Centre of Outdoor Recreation Excellence Implementation Phase	\$300,000
Denmark Sea Rescue Group	DSRG Rescue Boat	\$65,000
Fitzgerald Biosphere Group	Linking Bremer Bay to Point Henry Trail	\$65,000
Green Skills	Albany Community Enterprise Development Centre	\$191,000
Nyabing Progress Association	Nyabing Community Hub	\$200,000
Perth International Arts Festival	Great Southern Festival 2017	\$65,864
Shire of Cranbrook	Cranbrook Regional Community Hub	\$150,000
Shire of Denmark	Improve Bushfire Fighting Capability to Protect Public and Regional Assets Phase 2 - A, B and C Completion	\$58,800
Shire of Kent	Redevelopment of Pingrup Community and Sporting Pavilion	\$150,000
Shire of Kojonup	Extension of Existing Water Reuse Scheme	\$70,000
The Gillamii Centre	The Conservation Trail	\$50,001
The National Trust of Australia (WA)	Site Improvement and Enhancement, Old Farm Strawberry Hill	\$50,001
	Total	\$1,536,666

Pool awaits summer swimmers

Gnowangerup set to celebrate new facility

From the depths of winter, Gnowangerup is looking ahead to a fine summer sweetened by the opening of the town's new swimming pool.

Construction of the \$2 million pool complex is finished and work continues on the grounds. Testing in May confirmed that the water treatment equipment for the newly-filled pool met health standards.

Development of the pool in the grounds of the Gnowangerup Sporting Complex was supported by a \$200,000 grant through the GSDC's Regional Grants Scheme (RGS), made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program. The RGS funds covered roadworks and car parking, landscaping and features, and solar heating panels.

Volunteers helped out at a community landscaping day in June by rolling out turf and establishing plants.



Gnowangerup's new swimming pool is almost ready for patrons.

Major funding for the pool construction came through the Department of Sport and Recreation, the Country Local Government Fund and the Shire of Gnowangerup, along with support from the Gnowangerup Sporting Complex.

An official opening and community open day is expected to take place in November in time for the start of the summer swimming season.

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Welcome developments for Katanning

Project creates entry precinct, new housing lots

Further funding support for Katanning's SuperTowns projects will transform Piesse Lake and surroundings, and create a new welcome precinct for the town.

The \$18.3 million Katanning SuperTowns Heritage Centre project was allocated \$15.7 million in funding through the Growing Our South initiative, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

Through the project, a medium density residential land development will be established at Piesse Lake, enhanced by a botanic garden and recreational area. New residential options will be created in a 32-lot development that includes relocating the bowling club to the Katanning Country Club.

Katanning's renowned All Ages Playground will be improved and developed as part of the creation of a welcome precinct at the town entrance.



Katanning's All Ages Playground is set for improvement.

A new visitor centre and a community-run museum will be built near the new roundabout and town entry.

experiences and develop the town's tourism product.

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The project is expected to improve visitor

Videos highlight region's attractions

Focus on nature, produce, culture and heritage

Iconic Great Southern locations feature in a series of video clips posted online by the GSDC to promote the region.

Under the overall theme *Step Into the Great Southern*, the four video clips celebrate the region's natural beauty, fine produce, and rich culture and heritage.

The videos were posted online on Friday 27 May, in time for a viewing by guests at the GSDC Medal dinner.

Footage for the series was shot at locations including the Stirling Range, Tree Top Walk, National Anzac Centre, Kodja Place and Albany Wind Farm.

Using local talent, the videos depict journeys through the region to see the sights, sample produce and explore cultural and heritage connections.

Each video ends at a whimsical sunset feast filmed at Mutton Bird Beach.

The GSDC encourages viewers to share links to the videos, which can be accessed



through the GSDC website at www.gsdc.wa.gov.au or at www.vimeo.com/gsdc.

Filming under way at Mutton Bird Beach during the production of the Step Into the Great Southern series.

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